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CHRISTMAS!

Greeting, Happiness, and Joy to All.

A Discourse upon the Origin and History of the Day.

How the Festival was Anciently Observed, and How it is now Observed.

Legends, Sports, Music, Garlands, Feastings, Gifts.

Christianity's Natal Day the Grandest Day of the Year.

Merry-makings in the Various Countries Throughout the World.

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

Kind reader, to day, anticipating a few brief hours, we bid you, thrice bid you, a "Merry Christmas." To-night, the ringing of bells, the shouting of youths, the din of noisy, jostling, happy crowds, and indescribably mingled sounds of all sorts will split the welkin's ear, not only here in this good old Quaker City, but all over the earth, in clamor telling you that the world's festival is at hand. Childish eyes have twinkled for weeks as childish imaginations dwelt upon the sure approach of the happy time; and older eyes have gladdened for weeks beneath jovially-arched brows as they beheld the speaking joy of the younger folk. Long stockings are already being stretched to their extremest length, before midnight to be hung to waiting bed-posts; and green trees are already being planted in many a corner to await their deckings of Christmas trinkets. Gay have been the stores, gayer have been the streets, and gayest have been the beaming throngs which hurried along the one and entered the other. Although times are hard, to be sure, yet purse-strings have loosened liberally, and legal-tenders have been profusely exchanged for all kinds of articles to be given away as presents. What you are to receive let the morrow determine, but do not run the risk of being behindhand yourself by abstaining from giving in the fear that nothing will be given to you. If there be any time at all when a man's heart should warm benevolently, is it not the merry Christmas time? With the passage of a single night the day will be upon us. Shall we not then dwell awhile upon the history of the festival—its superstitions, customs, and sports?

Is the Date Correct?

Although the question whether the 25th of December is the true Christmas Day has been practically settled by the observance of the fourteenth centuries, still the subject is at times mooted, and arguments advanced in favor of other days, which, to say the very least, have the coloring of plausibility. It was anciently observed by some Churches in April, May, and other months, as well as December, but it has now for a long time been restricted by every Christian denomination to the latter month, and we presume the custom will never again be found to vary. Still, it may not be unprofitable to glance at the authorities which dwell upon this subject. When we do so, we not only find that all the arguments concerning the true date are based upon mere tradition, but they are confused and contradictory to a perplexing degree. At the earliest period to which we can trace the observance of Christmas as a professedly Christian festival, we find that some of the Churches celebrated it on the 1st and others on the 6th of January. Others, again, made it coincide with the Jewish Passover, by fixing it on the 29th of March; while by others the Feast of Tabernacles, which occurs on the 29th of September, was the favored season of the year. But some time before the reign of Constantine, in the fourth century, the New Year season irrevocably fixed its claims to this additional rejoicing. Even then, however, there was a difference in the practice of the Eastern and Western Churches. By the former the 6th of January was observed, and by the latter the 25th of December. The Western Church was finally triumphant, the date being fixed by a mandate of Julius I, who was the head of the Roman See from A. D. 337 to 352. We are informed by St. Chrysostom, who died in the early part of the fifth century, that Pope Julius, being solicited by St. Cyril, of Jerusalem, so to do, caused inquiries to be made into the matter, and authoritatively decided that the most authentic traditions were in favor of the 25th of December.

History of the Festival.

Having received the countenance of the Church, and being based on customs which were revered by the common people, Christmas continued down to the Reformation to be celebrated throughout the Christian world with great rejoicing. When the Protestant sects sprang into existence, this great festival, in common with many others on the Roman calendar, retained its place among the customs of the Lutheran and Anglican Churches; but by the adherents of Calvin it was rejected *in toto*, as without any warrant in Scripture. It was to the prevalence of this spirit among the Puritan settlers of New England that we owe the origin of our national festival of Thanksgiving. As Scotland was the country in which the Calvinistic doctrines became most prevalent, it was there that the clergy made the most determined efforts to do away with the observance of the obnoxious festival. The result of this course is the absence, even at the present day, of anything in the way of festivity on Christmas, except in the Highlands and the county of Forfar. But even in the Calvinistic Lowlands the tendency to rejoicing at the close of the year is so irrepressible that New Year's Day and the preceding evening, known as *Hogmanay*, are seasons of general jollification. In this country, while Christmas was formerly regarded by the Presbyterians with as much aversion as it is by those of their belief in the Old World, it has at last come to be observed by them generally, but merely as a season of festivity, without partaking of any sanctioned religious character.

The Festivities.

In this country, and, indeed, throughout the world, the Christmas festivities may be said to commence with the evening of December 24. But according to the weight of the ecclesiastical authorities, the festival should begin on the 16th day of the month, which is designated in the calendar as *O. Sapientia*, from the name of an anthem sung during Advent. The proper termination of the festivities is the 1st of February, or the eve before the Purification of the Virgin—Candlemas Day—by which time, in accordance with the canons of the Church, all the holiday decorations of places of worship should be removed. In England, however, the festivities continue at the present day scarcely a fortnight, ending with Twelfth Day; while in this country it is but seldom that they last beyond the commencement of the New Year. Considering that Christmas is preëminently a Christian festival, it would seem strange that many of the customs peculiar to the day are to be traced back to heathenish sources for their origin. When the different European nations were first converted to Christianity, it was found that the rites peculiar to their former faith had taken such a hold upon the popular heart that it was almost impossible to prevent their continued observance. The early missionaries, therefore, made the best of this circumstance by engrafting on the ancient ceremonies and superstitions of their converts the principles of the new faith which they had accepted, thus rendering the transition less sudden and less obnoxious. This was particularly the case with respect to Christmas in Great Britain, from which country we have borrowed nearly all of our own methods of observing it. The origin of the principal ceremonies was the *Saturnalia* of the Romans. The season chosen for this grand merry-making was the time of the winter solstice, on the 21st of December, when the days, having arrived at the period of their shortest duration, began to lengthen, thus heralding the approach of spring and summer, which was regarded as a fit subject for rejoicing. The Roman *Saturnalia* was characterized by universal license and jollity. The relation of master and slave, for the time being, was completely severed; the former frequently attending upon the latter as servants. The houses were made gay with evergreens, and games and presents were the staple occupations of the old and young of all classes. Among the ruder nations of the North of Europe there was a similar festival, at the same period of the year, characterized in this case by the sacrifice of men and cattle, the hanging up of the sacred mistletoe, and the universal kindling of fires, indoors and out. From the last of these is derived the Yule Log of "Merrie Old England." It is also said that the ancient Persians, between whom and the Druids of Western Europe there is supposed to have been an intimate relation, were accustomed to kindle fires on an extensive scale at the same period of the year. At different times, to the peculiarities of the *Saturnalia* were added the weird rites of the Druids and the grim observances of the Saxon mythology; and from this odd mingling of Pagan ceremonials sprang the Christmas festivities of our forefathers.

Christmas Greens.

From time immemorial it has been the habit of all Christian peoples to decorate their dwellings and places of worship during the continuance of the festival. For this purpose—so far as the dwellings were concerned, while use was made of all species of evergreens—the mistletoe was chiefly regarded in former ages. This parasitical plant was held in great veneration by the ancient Druids, especially when it was found clinging to the oak, which was supposed to be regarded with peculiar favor by their god "Tutanes," who was identical with the "Baal," or Sun, of the Phœnicians. It was in his honor that the great festival of the winter solstice, corresponding to the *Saturnalia* of the Romans, was celebrated. On this occasion the ancient Britons would sally forth, with all the paraphernalia of rejoicing, the Druids or priests at their head, to gather the mysterious plant. On reaching the oak, two white bulls were first secured to it, and then the chief Druid, arrayed in robes of white, to typify his purity, ascended the tree, and with a golden knife severed the sacred plant, which was caught in falling in the robe of another priest. The bulls, and in some instances human victims as well, were then sacrificed; after which the plants thus gathered were divided among the people, and by them hung up in sprays over the entrances to their dwellings. Not only was the plant considered to possess the power to propitiate the sylvan deities during the season of frost and snow, but it was held to impart a healing influence to all who thus revered it. As might naturally be expected, there was a strong opposition to introducing it into the Christian churches, and it is believed that it was but seldom used at any time, except through the ignorance of the sextons. This, however, did not prevent it from entering into the decoration of private houses, and as long as it could be easily obtained it was extensively used for that purpose.

One of the most enticing games of Christmas Eve is connected with this plant. A branch of it is suspended from the wall or ceiling, and when one of the gentler sex passes under it, either purposely or by accident, she incurs the penalty of being kissed by any one of the other sex who so chooses. If she be not kissed, it is the supposition that she will remain single during the coming year. While it had been customary to employ in the decoration of the churches nearly all the seasonable varieties of evergreen—the mistletoe being always excluded—the plants that are held in highest favor in England for this purpose are the holly, bay, rosemary, and laurel. The ivy is also used, but from its associations with Bacchus and the infernal orgies celebrated in his honor, it is generally considered undesirable. It is still the custom, however, at the two great English universities to deck the windows of the college chapels with this plant. Cypress, also, is sometimes excluded on account of its funereal associations. In this country, where many of the more appropriate evergreens are but scantily produced, the cedar, box, and pine are employed, from the necessities of the case. In the decoration of houses every available shoot of green is pressed into service, although holly and ivy have usually the preference. In Oxfordshire, England, there was a peculiar penalty attached to the neglect of this ceremony. The maid-servant would request the man to furnish a supply of ivy for decorating the house; and if for any reason he did not comply, a pair of his unmentionables were inevitably nailed up over the gateway.

Feasting on Fat Things.

The distinguishing feature of Christmas as a season of festivity is the universality with which the custom of feasting on that day is observed. Not only here in this country, but all over the world, Christmas Day is a nonentity without a Christmas board. The other peculiarities of the festival have arisen and increased their number through the lapse of years—some have become obsolete, while others have come into vogue; but from the very beginning the custom of making it a feast in the true sense of the word—a ministration in chief to the stomach—has uninterruptedly prevailed. Every lay which has been composed in its praise contains some allusion to the "groaning table," or, descending to specifics, advances the claims of plum-pudding, turkey, goose, or hot punch. In fact, to the younger people it is no more than an opportunity afforded to glut themselves to their hearts' content with sugar-plums and *bon-bons*—a season when parents are liberal in the giving of good things and chary of caution in their use. The "hung stocking" tells the whole tale, proves the truth of what has already been said, and obviates any necessity for further comment.

Stevenson, in his "Twelve Months," thus describes a Christmas in 1661:—"Now, capons and hens, besides turkeys, geese, ducks, with beef and mutton, must all die; for in twelve days a multitude of people will not be fed with a little. Now plums and spice, sugar and honey, square it among pies and broth. Now a journeyman cares not a rush for his master, though he begs his plum porridge all the twelve days. And if the cook do not lack wit, he will sweetly lick his fingers."

In ancient times it was the boar's head that held the first rank among the Christmas dishes of England. This dish appears to have been popular at a very early period. Holinshed, in speaking of the coronation of the Prince of Wales in 1170, says that King Henry II "served his son at the table as sewer, bringing up the Bore's Head, with trumpets before it, according to the manner."

The ceremony of "Bringing in the Bore's Head" in these early days was attended with great pomp and ceremony. It was the first and foremost dish upon the Christmas table of the feudal chieftains, and was served in a manner strictly in accordance with the boisterous customs of the day.

As the "sewer" bore it to the table he sang thus:—

"*Caput Apri defero*
Reddens laudes domino.
The Bore's Head in hand bringe I,
With garlandes gay and rosemary,
I pray you all synge merely,
Qui estis in convivio.

"The Bore's Head, I understande,
Is the chefe servyce in this lande;
Loke wherever it be fande,
Servite cum Cantico.

"Be gladde, lords; both more and lasse,
For this hath ordayned our stewarde,
To chere you all this Christmasse,
The Bore's Head with mustarde.
Caput Apri defero
Reddens laudes domino."

The dish next in regard to the boar's head in ancient times was the peacock, which was served up in rare and magnificent style. After being prepared the lady-guest of noblest birth or most bewitching beauty was selected to bear this royal dish into the hall; and following her, to the sound of music, came the rest of the dames, in the order of their rank.

On such occasions the gallant knights would swear over the dish to engage in the succor of such gentle beings as they might find in distress, no matter what peril attended the enterprise. And sometimes there was then and there a tournament, the victor in which was permitted further to display his skill in the cutting up of small beasts.

Third in order of rank, perhaps—but first in modern estimation—comes the Christmas pudding, a dish of quite modern origin, although it had its progenitor in the plum-porridge of ancient days. This last was so highly esteemed that it was always served with the first course. Says Addison, in the *Tatler*, "No man of the most rigid virtues gives offense by excess in plum-pudding or plum-porridge."

Now we reach the Christmas pies, indispensable accompaniments of every Christmas board.

As early as 1596 Christmas pies were popular under the title of "mutton pies." At a later period neat's-tongue took the place of the mutton, the remaining ingredients being nearly the same as at present. So highly esteemed at one time were these Christmas pies, that a watch was always set upon them to forestall the depredations of thieves. The proper time to commence eating them, according to old Dr. Parr, was *O. Sapientia*, or the 16th of December. Having so informed an inquisitive female, the Doctor added:—"But please to say Christmas pie, not mince pie; mince pie is puritanical." The Puritans, indeed, were bitter foes of anything that savored of Christmas superstition, and to their prejudices we are indebted for the following amusing stanza:—

"All plums the Prophet's sons deny,
And spice-broths are too hot;
Treason's in a December-pie,
And death within the pot."

The famous legend of "Little Johnny Horner" can properly be introduced in this connection. Here we have it:—

"*Parvus Johannes* Horner
Sedebat in a corner,
Ædens a Christmas pie;
Inseruit his thumb,
Extrahit a plum,
Exclamans, 'quid smart *puer* am I."

In our days the boar's head, the peacock, and other dishes anciently esteemed, have given place to the turkey, the goose, and the chicken. The first of these is now the essential dish, and ever occupies the position of honor on the table. What an amusing calculation it would be for some enterprising statistician to add up the countless thousands of these doomed birds which are annually slaughtered just at this season!

The Music.

Another distinguishing feature of the "Merry Christmas" time is its music. In England there is a class of musicians who are termed "Christmas Waits," although it is not known whether the word originally denoted the music, the performers, or the instruments upon which they played. As early as the year 1400 a company of "waits" was established at Exeter, concerning whom Rymer gives a long account, commencing as follows:—

"A wayte, that nightelye from Michelmas to Shreve Thorsdaye pipethe the wateche within this courte fower time; in the somere nyghtes iij tymes, and maketne bon gayte at every chambere-dore and offyce, as well for feare of pyckeres and pillers. He eateth in the halle with mynstrielles, and taketne lyverye (allowance) at nyghte a loffe, a galone of atle, etc."

From this account it would appear that, in the time of Edward II, the "waits" were pages of the court; but in later days they were merely minstrels, whose strains were heard only at Christmas time in England, and in Scotland—Christmas being there tabooed—at New Year. In London, at the present time, they perambulate the streets at night for two or three weeks before Christmas, performing the popular airs of the day on various wind instruments. Their labors cease on Christmas Eve, and soon after they call upon the inhabitants for their contributions.

The singing of Christmas carols is another custom which has long prevailed in England. The Christmas carol is as old as the festival itself, and in the primitive days of the Church it was customary for the bishop, surrounded by his clergy, to take part in this simple and beautiful ceremony. In those times the carol was exclusively a religious song, but it has become so secularized that but little of the religious element now remains. We subjoin a few stanzas from one of the most touching of these Christmas ballads:—

"And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas day in the morning.

"And all the angels in heaven shall sing
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And all the angels in heaven shall sing
On Christmas day in the morning.

"And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas day in the morning.

"Then let us all rejoice amain
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
Then let us all rejoice amain
On Christmas day in the morning."

In this country the singing of Christmas carols has never been popularly adopted.

Sports and Festivities.

With years always comes sedateness. This holds true not only in regard to the life of a man, but also in regard to the life of a custom. In bygone ages, as has already been remarked, the festival of Christmas was observed in noise and clamor, and while, sooth to say, it is kept even in this present age in a manner rather unquiet, yet, as it has grown old, its celebration is not now attended with any approach to that boisterousness which marked it centuries ago. Nevertheless, Christmas sports make up much of the attractiveness of the time. In the days of yore the "Yule Log" was the grand culmination of the sports of Christmas Eve. The custom is still retained in some sections of England, although it is sadly shorn of the pomp and ceremony which formerly attended it. The festival of the winter solstice, as celebrated by the ancient Goths and Saxons, was termed *Juul* or *Yule*, by the latter of which terms Christmas is still known in the Scottish dialect. The term is most probably derived from the Gothic word *giul* or *hiul*, from which is derived the English "wheel," and which has the same significance. *Juul*, or *Yule*, is therefore supposed to signify the turning-point of the year—a supposition which is confirmed by the fact that in the old clog almanacs the Yule-tide is designated by the device of a wheel.

The ceremony of bringing in the Yule Log was conducted in the following manner:—The party repaired to the woods where the log lay, and having placed themselves in the harness, dragged it in triumph to the hall, each wayfarer raising his hat as it passed. Arriving there, they were greeted by the minstrels with a song, of which the following, supposed to belong to the period of Henry VI, is a fair specimen:—

"Welcome be thou, heavenly King,
Welcome born on this morning,
Welcome for whom we shall sing,
Welcome Yule!

"Welcome be ye, good New Year,
Welcome Twelfth-day, both in fere
Welcome saints, loved and dear,
Welcome Yule!"

The log was then rolled upon the ample hearth and ignited with a coal from the remnant of the Yule Log of the preceding year. This done, a candle of monstrous size was lighted, and then the Christmas party made themselves merry with music and wassail.

"Kissing under the Mistletoe" was another favorite game of Christmas Eve in olden times, while still another was the "Procession of Mummers," styled *guisers* or *guizards* in Scotland, a ceremony which is still kept up in some sections of England. The term "mummer," which is synonymous with "masker," comes from the Danish *mumme*, or the Dutch *momme*. The custom was probably derived from the Roman *Saturnalia*, of which masquerading was a favorite feature. The early Christians, on New Year's day, were accustomed to run about the streets *en masque*, in ridicule of the custom of their Pagan neighbors. From these practices it is supposed sprang the "mysteries," or "miracle plays," which were for many centuries a favorite amusement of all the European nations. The mumming ceremonies of Christmas Eve were in many respects similar to these popular "mysteries," although the religious element, which was prominent in the latter, was almost entirely wanting in the former. The persons engaging in them would array themselves in the most outlandish and fantastic costumes, combining all the oddities of men and brutes, and then make the round of the principal houses within their reach, to the intense delight of old and young. The ceremony was not strictly confined to the Christmas season in old times, although it is at present, wherever practised in England. At Tenby, in South Wales, it is kept up for three weeks, every house in the town being visited. In Scotland, mumming, or *guising*, is performed at New Year, as are all the other festivities of the winter solstice.

The "Lord of Misrule" now takes his place as next on the list of Christmas sports of the days of our ancestors. This functionary, in a word, was the master of the Christmas revels. We have the following account of the custom by Stow:—"In the feast of Christmas there was in the king's house, wheresoever he lodged, a 'Lord of Misrule,' or Master of Merry Desports, and the like had ye in the house of every nobleman of honor or good worship, were he spiritual or temporal. The Mayor of London, and either of the Sheriffs, had their several Lords of Misrule, ever contending, without quarrel or offense, who should make the rarest pastime to delight the beholders. These lords beginning their rule at Allhallond Eve, continued the same till the morrow after the Feast of the Purification, commonly called Candlemas Day, in which space there were fine and subtle disguisings, masks, and mummeries, with playing at cards for counters, nayles, and points in every house, more for pastimes than for game."

In the University of Cambridge this functionary, regularly elected from among the Masters of Art, was termed *Imperator*, or *Præfectus Ludorum*, and his duties were not only to superintend the diversions of Christmas, but of the annual representations of the Latin plays by the students as well. A similar custom prevailed at Oxford. In the Inns of Court in London the Lord of Misrule reigned in great splendor, being surrounded by all the paraphernalia of royalty, including a lord-keeper and treasurer, a guard of honor, and two chaplains, who regularly preached before him in the Temple Church on Sunday. His sovereignty terminated on Twelfth Day. In 1635, this mock-royal personage expended £2000 out of his own pocket, and in return received the honor of knighthood at the hands of Charles I. As an illustration of the outrageous license enjoyed by these functionaries, we subjoin an extract from the "articles" by which the Right Worshipful Richard Evelyn, Esq., constituted Owen Flood, his trumpeter, the "Lord of Misrule of all good orders during the twelve days:"—

"I give free leave to the said Owen Flood to command all and every person or persons whatsoever, as well servants as others, to be at his command whensoever he shall sound his trumpet or music, and to do him good service, as though I were present myself, at their peril. I give full power and authority to his lordship to break up all locks, bolts, bars, doors, and latches, and to fling up all doors out of hinges to come at those who presume to disobey his lordship's commands. God save the King!"

The Lord of Misrule commenced his reign by absolving all his subjects from their wisdom, commanding them to retain just enough sense to know how to conduct themselves like fools. In Scotland, previous to the Reformation, a functionary entitled the "Abbot of Unreason" was elected by the monasteries to superintend the Christmas festivities. In France, likewise, they had an *Abbas Stultorum*, or "Pope of Fools," of a similar character. The Scottish Parliament abolished the custom by statute in 1555. As might have been expected, the old Puritans were bitterly opposed to these practices, and denounced them in unmeasured terms, as relics of the "Roman *Saturnalia* and Bacchanalian festivals, which should cause all pious Christians eternally to abominate them."

From time out of mind, even to our present day, has descended the sport called "Snap-dragon." Both in England and America it is one of the favorite games of Christmas.

The operation is very simple, although it requires a considerable amount of nerve and rapidity of motion. A quantity of plums or raisins are deposited in a large shallow bowl, and over these is poured brandy, or some other liquor, which is then ignited. The bystanders then plunge their hands into this mimic lake of fire and draw forth, if they can, a plum.

It is quaintly sung in the following verses:

"Here he comes with flaming bowl,
Don't he mean to take his toll,
Snip! Snap! Dragon!

"Take care you don't take too much,
Be not greedy in your clutch,
Snip! Snap! Dragon!

"With his blue and lapping tongue
Many of you will be stung,
Snip! Snap! Dragon!

"For he snaps at all that comes,
Snatching at his feast of plums,
Snip! Snap! Dragon!"

Among the minor sports in vogue at Christmas time may be mentioned "Blind Man's Buff" and the game of "Forfeits," both of which are so well known as to require no particular notice. In addition to these there are countless others—some played here, some there—each locality having its own particular one, the best and most detailed enumeration of which would not only, of necessity, prove incomplete, but run to no one knows whither.

Odd Notions and Superstitions.

No other season in the year—no other festival in the calendar—is accompanied by so many singular fancies and actual superstitions as Christmas. Many of these have an origin anterior even to the discovery of our continent; others again have sprung into existence in days comparatively recent. Human nature is the same always and everywhere, so that not only the people of the Old World, but the people of the New, now retain, and may-hap believe in, many of these superstitions. Among them, perhaps one of the most ancient and singular is that concerning the "crowing of the cock." It was believed of yore that this bird, which of course is silent during the hours of the night, crowed from the setting of the sun on Christmas Eve to its rising on Christmas morn. Shakespeare has seized upon this popular tradition, and turned it to good advantage in one of the ghost scenes in *Hamlet*. "Marcellus" reminds his companions that the ghost "faded on the crowing of the cock," and then continues in the following beautiful strain:—

"Some say, that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
This bird of dawning singeth all night long;
And then, they say, no spirit walks abroad;
The nights are wholesome; then no planet strikes;
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallow'd and so gracious is the time."

In old times there was a prejudice among the people of Scotland against "spinning on Christmas Day." The Calvinistic preachers, overflowing with anti-Christmas prejudices, took especial pains to rid their flocks of this idea. Their efforts in that direction are thus

described in Jhone Hamilton's "Facile Traictise:—

"The ministers of Scotland—in contempt of the vther halie dayes observit be England—cause their wyfis and servants *spin* in open sicht of the people upon Yeul day; and their affectionnate auditeurs constraines their tenants to yok their plouchs on Yeul day, in contempt of Christ's Natiuitie, whilk our Lord has not left vnpunisit; for thair oxin ran wod [mad], and brak their nakis, and leamit [lamed] sum plough men, as is notoriously knawin in sindrie partes of Scotland."

In the counties of Cornwall and Devon, in England, it was long believed that at the hour of twelve o'clock the cattle in their stalls would fall upon their knees and make "a cruel moan, like Christian creatures." It is also said that these dumb brutes, knowing naught of the change of style in reckoning the year, continued their devotions on the eve of the old Christmas. The tradition probably originated in the fact that in many of the old pictures of the Nativity the ox and ass are represented as being upon their knees, in acknowledgment of the sovereignty of the newborn babe.

In regard to the "evergreen" decorations of dwellings and churches during the holiday season, if any of them were permitted to remain after the 2d of February, it was considered an omen of ill, as expressed in the following lines by Herrick:—

"For look, how many leaves there be
Neglected there, maids, trust to me,
So many goblins you shall see."

There were likewise many superstitious notions associated with the "burning of the Yule Log."

It was the custom to deposit in some secure place the charred remains of the Yule Log, from which to light its successor on the ensuing Christmas. And it was believed that the preservation of this remnant would unfailingly secure the house against fire throughout the coming year.

Among other ominous occurrences, if a person unluckily snuffed out a candle, his or her marriage during the coming year was extremely doubtful, unless, indeed, a spark should remain, from which the candle could be rekindled by blowing on it. So it was believed that bread baked on Christmas Eve would never mould; and when Christmas fell on a Sunday, good luck awaited every one, while the reverse was the case when the festival happened on a Saturday.

The Presents.

The chief, and perhaps the most pleasant, of all the many customs connected with the Christmas season, is the universal giving of gifts or presents. Everybody then is expected to give, and everybody expects to receive. First in importance—as to them the custom brings more of fervent, genuine, and unalloyed joy—in this matter of gift-giving come the children. The twinkling eyes of the little ones close but intermittingly during the night preceding the dawning of the happy day—and their expectant hearts beat hurriedly in anticipation, even while their senses are steeped in slumber. Tiny stockings, with wide open mouths, are suspended to every convenient nail and bed-post in their chamber—stockings hung empty, but sure of being well filled when seized by hasty hands on the morrow. Others, however, besides the children are interested in this custom, for so far has it gone that the hoariest head in the house now gets some token of kind remembrance. In fact, the very servants are not forgotten—the cook is made happy with a new bonnet, the hostler with a new coat. Tabby, too, is tricked out with new jingling bells, and Towser rejoices in a new collar. Gifts of utility, gifts of ornament, gifts of all kinds are bestowed, and wretched indeed is he who owns not on the morning of the "Merry Christmas" day something new among his possessions.

But the beautiful legend of Santa Claus describes this custom in an inimitable way, and so we give it. This mystical individual is variously known in this country and the German Fatherland, from which the last tradition is derived, as Santa Claus, Kriss Kinkle—a corruption of Christ-Kindlein or Infant Christ—and Saint Nicholas; but from the various attributes assigned him the latter is evidently his great prototype. We could give no better version of the story than is found in the following immortal poem, by Clement C. Moore:—

"'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimneys with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced through their heads;
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap—
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter;
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash;
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below;
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew, in a moment, it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name;
'Now Dasher! now Dancer! now Prancer! now Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blixen!
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now, dash away, dash away, dash away, all!'
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle mount to the sky,
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys and St. Nicholas, too.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof,
As I drew in my head and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples—how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf;
And I laughed, when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spake not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle;
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
'Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!'"

Intimately connected with Christmas gifts are Christmas charities; and here one of the really touching customs of the season deserves a passing notice. Throughout the Christian world it has ever been the custom, on the annual recurrence of the Christmas holidays, for those who are blessed with an abundance of this world's goods, to include in their munificence not only their immediate relatives and friends, but the poor and the strangers around them. The world's festival affords a striking exemplification of what the world should ever be—charitable and all-embracing in goodness. At Christmas times we witness a partial realization of the truth that "it is more blessed to give than to receive," and appreciate how much better the world would be if the poor were always remembered. Many good folks never fail at this season to furnish the indigent in their neighborhood with a substantial Christmas dinner; and, better yet, we now have our newsboys' and bootblacks' Christmas feast. So, too, in the public corrective institutions it is usual to provide the inmates with a Christmas dinner. Nothing could be more beautiful than this recognition of the universal brotherhood of all men.

Christmas Everywhere.

All that has been said thus far concerning the origin, history, and customs of the great festival has been general in its character, and must needs have embraced its modes of celebration over the entire world. There remains, however, a number of special customs of particular countries and localities which we shall now take up in order, commencing with our mother country.

In the county of Devon, England, the burning of the Yule Log was attended with ceremonies unlike those prevalent in other sections of the country. Devonshire, in truth, appears to have a Christmas peculiarly its own.

One of the customs yet in vogue in some sections of the country is for the farmer, together with his family and friends, to partake, on Christmas Eve, of hot cakes dipped in cider, the beverage itself being used to wash down the crumbs. This done, the party proceed to the orchard and make an offering of a portion of these savory dishes to the apple-trees. In the fork of the tree the cake is deposited with due ceremony, while the tree itself is drenched with the juice of its fruit. Meanwhile the men are firing off guns and pistols, and the women and girls are shouting this doggerel verse:—

"Bear blue, apples and pears enow,
Barns full, bags full, sacks full
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!"

In the county of Norfolk they formerly had a similar custom of sprinkling the orchards and meadows with spiced ale. In the neighborhood of the New Forest, in Hampshire, a similar ceremony is still practised.

Cheshire likewise has its peculiar customs. In Chester and the neighboring villages crowds of singers parade the streets on Christmas Eve, receiving substantial entertainment at every house which they honor with a call. So, by an ancient custom of the country, servants engage themselves to their employers from New Year's Eve to Christmas Day only. During the intervening seven days the masters are obliged to shift for themselves.

At Manchester they have a fashion of celebrating Christmas in a way that is highly characteristic of the English of three and four centuries ago. Under the superintendence of the Directors of the Mechanics' Institution, an annual "Christmas Party" is held each year in the monstrous Free-Trade Hall, which can accommodate full five thousand people. The president of the institution takes the chair at the opening of the ceremonies, but he is soon superseded by the jolly "Lord of Misrule," under whose direction masking, mumming, and singing have full sway. Sometimes there is also a procession of the months, at other times of the seasons, and at all times of the old-fashioned Wassail Bowl. Nor is the bringing in of the Boar's Head ever omitted. At one of these festivals recently, the great national drama of *Saint George and the Dragon* was represented in handsome style. The patron saint of England, after performing prodigies of valor, at last encountered the ferocious "Dragon," whom he slew after a hot and furious contest. The *débris* of the battle was then cleared away, when the delighted spectators betook themselves to tripping "the light fantastic toe."

There are many other localities in England in which interesting local ceremonies are still practised.

In Scotland, as we have already stated, it is only in the Highlands, and in a few sections of the southern portion of the country, that the festivities of the winter solstice are conducted at Christmas.

In these sections, at early dawn on Christmas Day, the housemaid proceeds to make, from a meal which was steeped two weeks before in *sowans-bowie*, the *Prechdachdan sour*, or *sour scones*. These finished, the housemaid turns her attention to the baking of hard cakes and soft cakes, and other edibles, among which we find such outlandish and incomprehensible names as *brandered bannocks* and *pannich perm*. The *sowans*, a sort of oatmeal porridge, are then boiled down to the consistency of molasses, and by this time the *lagan le-vrich*, or "yeast bread," is ready. These various dishes are then served up to the whole family while still in bed; and not till old and young have emptied their *bickers* do they rise.

The time between rising and dinner is passed by the old people in consulting the signs of the coming year, and by the young in boisterous sports, among which the prominent ones are swinging, prize shooting, and ball throwing. The dinner itself is substantial and tempting. One of the favorite dishes is termed *sonsy* or *savoury haggis*, which is a jumble of sheep's maw, lung, heart, and liver, mixed with suet, onions, pepper, and salt; or of the latter and oatmeal alone. To the dinner succeeds the bowl, and when it has had a free-and-easy circulation they hasten to the ball-room or card-table, and there pass the remainder of the day.

In Ireland one of the features of the season is the practice of a barbarous sport termed "Hunting the Wren." To this diminutive bird the Irish people profess a great antipathy, which had its origin, according to tradition, in several different ways. By some authorities it is said that at the battle of Glinsuly, in county Donegal, the Catholics would have surprised the Protestant army sleeping, had the latter not been awakened by some wrens who were dancing and pecking away on their drums. A similar incident is also, by some writers, attributed to the invasion of Ireland by the Danes. By others it is said that the superstitious awe in which the Druids held the wren, whom they considered the king of all the feathered tribe, caused the first Christian missionaries to persecute the inoffensive bird, and by their command it is hunted to the death to the present day.

Be this as it may, wren hunting is one of the most boisterous and attractive of the Irish holiday sports. There is, indeed, a dispute as to whether the proper day for the hunt is Christmas or St. Stephen's, although we believe it is at present practised only on the former. On this day the wren—or "the Devil's Servant," as it is called by its foes—is hunted with untiring zeal, and killed wherever found.

To the hunting of the wren succeeds the ceremony of the "Wren-Bush." In this the slaughtered bird is suspended by the leg to a "bush" of holly and ivy, and in this manner is carried through the village streets, from door to door, at the head of a merry procession of men, women, and children. The ceremony is terminated by a regular Irish frolic. In former times the procession was attended with much greater pomp than at present, the royal bird being decked with gay ribbons, and borne aloft by persons selected for the occasion, while their followers were arrayed in grotesque costumes, and had in their company the devices of hobby-horses, dragons, and serpents.

In France Christmas is not celebrated with any approach to that *éclat* which marks it in England and America. It is nevertheless an occasion of great merriment, and it has become a custom on that day to appease family quarrels and to settle marriages.

The most attractive element in the feasting of the day is a rare and palatable selection of southern fruits, which at this season of the year are brought into Paris in enormous quantities. Grand ballets are to be seen at the theatres, and balls and *soupers* are the entertainments which are provided for such as frequent the gaming-houses. At midnight, too, on Christmas Eve, the priests are accustomed to celebrate mass in an impressive manner, the churches and altars being profusely and elegantly decorated. The singing on these occasions is particularly good.

The English custom of burning the Yule Log is copied after in some sections of the country, where a large log is placed upon the hearth at 6 o'clock on Christmas Eve. This was at one time regarded as a sure protection from pestilence during the whole of the ensuing year for all who sat around its blazing coals. The legend of Santa Claus likewise lingers in France, that popular individual there passing under the name of *Bonhomme Noël*. Shoes, instead of stockings, are used as receptacles for the toys and candies intended for the little folks.

In Germany the great feature of the Christmas season is the Christmas tree. This beautiful custom is almost universal in this country, although in England it was quite unknown until within the last quarter of a century. In Germany it is a very ancient custom, and had its origin, in all probability, in some of the mediæval pageants which were so popular on the Continent. The tree is usually of fir, although both birch and yew are used. The Christmas tree is there always illuminated, the smaller gifts dangling from the boughs, while the more bulky ones are deposited around it on the table. In the Catholic sections of Germany the Christ-child, from whom the gifts are alleged to come, is frequently personated by a person robed in white and bearing a crown and wings of gilt. But this feature, being considered irreverent on account of the deceit which it involves, is said to be falling into disuse.

So far as regards the celebration of Christmas in the United States—our own country—it is scarcely necessary to say a word. Every one is familiar with it, and the only points that require any explanation have already been touched upon. Our people are, perhaps, not quite so boisterous as were their English ancestors, not entirely given up up that reckless *abandon* which is still a marked characteristic of the festival as celebrated in our mother Country. And yet we believe that, outside of New England, where the old Calvinistic doctrines still linger to some extent, it is the happiest season of the year.

Most of the churches, especially those of the Episcopal denomination, are handsomely decorated, and services appropriate to the occasion are held on Christmas morning. The remainder of the day, as well as the preceding evening, and, as a general thing, the entire week between Christmas and New Year, are given up to social enjoyment.

As each particular one of our countrymen, however, knows fully as much as we about the way in which the holidays are celebrated around us, anything further would be merely supererogatory. We wind up our essay, then, and bid you a happy good-night, by repeating, cordially repeating, the time-honored wish,

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DELAWARE AVENUE AND SPRUCE ST.,

PHILADELPHIA.

The Best and Cheapest Places in Philadelphia to get a Good Meal. 12 14 12trp

NATIONAL HOTEL,

ON THE EUROPEAN PLAN,

Nos. 3, 5, and 7 CORTLANDT Street,

Near Broadway, New York.

ARTHUR T. HALLIDAY,

12 22 6 rp PROPRIETOR.

405 CHESNUT STREET,

OLD RYE HOTEL.

LUNCH OF VENISON, and other Game in Season, every day from 10½ to 12 M.

12 9 1m ROBERT BLACK.

MIDDLE TEMPLE

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT,

No. 116 South SIXTH Street.

12 9 1m H. REINHARD, Proprietor.

MT. VERNON HOTEL,

81 Monument street, Baltimore.

Elegantly Furnished, with unsurpassed Cuisine.

On the European Plan.

D. P. MORGAN.

GEORGE ZIELLEY,

Formerly Fitzwater & Zielley,

Filbert street, above Eighth street,

has opened the old stand,

N. W. COR. THIRD AND WOOD STS.,

where he will be glad to see his friends.

12 11 1m GEORGE ZIELLEY.

DYEING, SCOURING, ETC.

NEW YORK DYEING AND PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

WORKS ON STATEN ISLAND.

Offices, No. 40 N. EIGHTH Street, west side, Phila.,

No. 26 DUANE Street,

No. 762 BROADWAY, New York, and

Nos. 134 and 136 PIERREPONT Street, Brooklyn.

This old and extensive establishment having been in existence a *half century* are prepared to DYE and CLEANSE Ladies' and Gentlemen's Garments and Piece Goods of every description and fabric in their usually unsurpassed manner.

SAMUEL MARSH, President.
J. T. YOUNG, Secretary. 10 19 mwf3m

WIRE GUARDS,

FOR STORE FRONTS, ASYLUMS, FACTORIES, ETC.

Patent Wire Railing from Bedsteads, Ornamental Wire Work, Paper Makers' Wires, and every variety of Wire Work, manufactured by

M. WALKER & SONS,

2 mwf No. 11 North SIXTH Street.

DRY GOODS.

EYRE & LANDELL

FOURTH AND ARCH.

REDUCTION IN PRICES

FOR THE

Christmas Holidays.

MAGNIFICENT SHAWLS.
EXPENSIVE SILKS.
FASHIONABLE POPLINS.
DESIRABLE CLOAKINGS.
4-4 PURE SILK VELVETS.
SATIN STRIPE SKIRTINGS.
STRIPE POPLIN SKIRTINGS.
GRAND DUCHESS SKIRTS.
BELLE HELENE SKIRTS.
FIRST QUALITY ASTRACHANS.

6000 yards DELAINES for Presents for the Helps of the house.
6000 yards fast Fast Colored CHINTZES, do.
2000 yards 4-4 FRENCH CHINTZES, do.
Bargains in Handkerchiefs, Gloves, Collars Scarfs, and Neck Ties. 12 4 fmwlmrp

MILLIKEN'S

LINEN STORE,

No. 828 ARCH STREET.

FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS,

LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS,

A Splendid Stock.

ALSO,

FINE TABLE CLOTHS,
FINE NAPKINS,
BEAUTIFUL TABLE COVERS,
FINE PIANO COVERS,

GREAT MARK DOWN TO SELL OFF SURPLUS STOCK. 9 30 wfm3

1868. CHRISTMAS. **1868.**

USEFUL HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

JAMES McMULLAN,

No. 1128 CHESNUT STREET,

Next Door to BAILEY'S,

FORMERLY SEVENTH AND CHESNUT,

IS SELLING

BLANKETS, QUILTS,
SHEETINGS, TABLE CLOTHS,
NAPKINS,
PIANO AND TABLE COVERS,
FLANNELS,
MUSLINS,
EMBROIDERIES,
HDKFS., ETC. ETC.

The very best goods at the lowest prices for CASH. 12 10 thstu10trp

NEW GOODS.

BARGAINS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS.

500 Dozen Ladies', Gents' and Misses'

(With Initials and Monograms,)

EMBROIDERED,
HEMSTITCHED,
FANCY WITH TUCKS,
CORDED and
PRINTED BORDER.
LINEN CAMBRIC AND CLEAR LAWN REAL FRENCH LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS,
Also, a large assortment of New Collars, Sets, and Sleeves, of finest qualities, at very low prices.

SHEPPARD, VAN HARLINGEN & ARRISON,

No. 1008 CHESNUT Street,

12 16 10trp PHILADELPHIA.

HOUSE-FURNISHING LINENS.

STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER,

CENTRAL DRY GOODS STORE,

COR. EIGHTH AND MARKET STREETS.

Positively for the next Fifteen Days only, our whole Stock of LINENS will be open to buyers at

REDUCED PRICES,

From which many Elegant and Useful Presents may be selected.

STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER.

LOW PRICES.

ELEGANT AND USEFUL PRESENTS.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF

NEW GOODS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

EMBROIDERED PIANO and TABLE COVERS,
RICH TAPESTRY TABLE COVERS,
ELEGANT EMBROIDERED LACE CURTAINS,
FINEST MARSEILLES QUILTS,
FRENCH EMBROIDERED SHIRT FRONTS,
EXTRA FREMIUM BLANKETS,
SPLENDID DOUBLE DAMASK TABLECLOTHS, from two up to eight yards long, with an extensive assortment of Napkins, Doylies, and Towels, of all sizes, and the finest goods ever imported.

SHEPPARD, VAN HARLINGEN & ARRISON,

No. 1008 CHESNUT Street,

12 16 10trp PHILADELPHIA.

DRY GOODS.

DUNKLE & DREISBACH.

SPECIAL REDUCTION

OF

DRY GOODS

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

2 more Cases Black Alpacas from New York Auction.
1 case of Black Alpaca Poplin for Walking Suits.
Striped Poplins reduced from 75c. to 25c. per yard.
Black and Colored Velveteens.
3000 yards choice style Delaines, 18, 20, 22, and 25c. per yard.
Merino, 2 yards wide, at 75 cents per yard; four yards for a dress pattern.

BARGAINS FOR THE LADIES!

Handkerchiefs, Neck-Ties, Gloves, and the only place in the city where the real

FRENCH BOWS

Are sold. A few more left. Something nice for a

CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

Also, a large selection of Ladies' Lace Collars, Linen Collars and Cuffs, Lace and Embroidered Handkerchiefs.
Splendid Cloth Gloves and Hose for 25c. a pair.
Towels, Table Cloths, Napkins, Blankets, Counterpanes, Cotton Flannels, all-wool Flannels, Diaper Linen, Bird Eye, etc.
Great reduction in Lyons Black Silk Velvet to close out before the 1st day of January, 1869.
Persons bringing this advertisement with them will have a liberal discount made from their purchases.
Call at the Large Four-Story Store,

No. 140 N. EIGHTH Street, Above Arch,

DUNKLE & DREISBACH.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The store will be kept open every evening until 8 o'clock, from now until New Year, for the accommodation of the public. 12 15 tuthssrp

COOPER & CONARD,

S. E. Cor. NINTH and MARKET.

HOLIDAY GIFTS

Of substantial worth, and always of an acceptable kind, may be selected from our large, varied, and fresh Stock, than which none in our line is superior. We have reduced many goods, and suggest our superb

CLOTH STOCK.

CLOAKS, $4·00 to $125.
SHAWLS, $1 to $70.
DESIRABLE POPLINS.
MERINOES, 50 cents up.
CHEAP BLANKETS.
EVERY KIND QUILTS
MERRIMAC PRINTS.
MOURNING GOODS
25 CENT DRESS STUFFS.
HANDKERCHIEFS. [9 26 fstu3mrp
TIES, SCARFS, COLLARS, CUFFS, ETC.

EXTRA NOTICE.

JOHN W. THOMAS,

Nos. 405 and 407 N. SECOND St.,

Invites especial attention to his LARGE and ELEGANT assortment of

STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS

SUITABLE FOR [11 7

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

The Entire Stock is Offered at the Very LOWEST PRICES.

1868. CLOTH HOUSE. 1868.

STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER

Wish to keep before the public the fact that their aim is to keep the largest and most varied stock of all descriptions of

CLOTHS

To be Found in Philadelphia.

STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER,

CENTRAL CLOTH HOUSE,

Corner EIGHTH and MARKET,

9 4] PHILADELPHIA.

INDIA SHAWLS AND SCARFS

GEORGE FRYER,

No. 916 CHESNUT STREET.

Invites attention to his stock of

Real India Camel's Hair Shawls & Scarfs.

Also, an elegant stock of SILKS, in Blacks and Colors; FANCY SILK PLUSHES, POPLINS SHAWLS, and FANCY GOODS.

INDIA SHAWLS AND SCARFS altered and paired, and cleaned in a superior manner. 10 30 2mrp

E. M. NEEDLES & CO.

WILL REMOVE TO THE STORE

No. 1126 CHESNUT Street,

ABOUT JANUARY 1,

FROM N. W. Corner ELEVENTH and CHESNUT,

WHERE THEY NOW OFFER

SPLENDID ASSORTMENTS OF

Laces and Lace Goods,
Embroideries, Neck Ties,
Handkerchiefs, Veils,
Napkins, Table Cloths, Towels, Etc.,

SPECIALLY APPROPRIATE FOR PRESENTS.

THE STORE NOW OCCUPIED BY THEM FOR RENT. 12 3 thstu12s

FAMILY MOURNING.
FAMILY MOURNING.

EVERY ARTICLE FOR FIRST AND SECOND MOURNING WEAR.
DRESS GOODS, BONNETS,
SHAWLS, VEILS, CRAPES, COLLARS, ETC.,
At prices to compete with the present sacrifices in DRY GOODS.

MYERS' New Mourning Store,

No. 1113 CHESNUT Street,
11 18 fmw2m GIRARD ROW.

R. & C. A. WRIGHT,

No. 624 CHESNUT STREET,

Have just received a large assortment of NEW AND ELEGANT

FANCY ARTICLES,

Selected in Europe this season for their

NOVELTY AND BEAUTY, ESPECIALLY FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Also, a large and beautiful assortment of genuine

MEERSCHAUM PIPES,

Which they offer for sale [11 30 mwf14t

AT VERY REDUCED PRICES.

HOOP SKIRTS.

1115. WILLIAM T. HOPKINS.

MANUFACTURER OF THE

Celebrated Champion Hoop Skirts,

HAS REMOVED TO

HIS NEW, COMMODIOUS, AND CENTRALLY LOCATED STORE,

No. 1115 CHESNUT Street,

Where he has opened the most complete line of Ladies', Misses', and Children's Hoop Skirts and Corsets ever before offered in America embracing every quality, style, shape, and size, and at prices to meet the views of all.

Our Champion Skirts are manufactured to meet the wants of first-class trade, and are better and cheaper than all others in the market. Plain Skirts, from 20 to 50 springs, from $1 to $2·25. Trails, from 20 to 50 springs, from $1·25 to $3, warranted in every respect. Misses' Skirts, from 8 to 45 springs, from 25c. to $1 70. Complete lines of low-priced New York Skirts, 15 springs, 35c.; 20 springs, 45c.; 25 springs, 50c.; 30 springs 60c.; 35 springs, 65c.; and 40 springs, 75c

Corsets, Corsets, Corsets, forty different styles and prices. Superior French and German Corsets, best makes and styles, from $1 to $7; Thompson & Langdon's Glove-fitting Corsets, from $2·25 to $5·5; extra quality hand-made Whalebone Corsets, from 75c. to $2·20; Mrs. Moody's Patent Self-adjusting Abdominal Corsets, highly recommended by physicians, at $3 $4·50, $5·50, and $6. Every lady should call and examine them.

Also, special attention is invited to our assortment of LADIES' UNDER-GARMENTS, which will be found at prices less than the materials can be bought for.

MANUFACTORY AND SALES-ROOMS,

No. 1115 CHESNUT Street.

12 12 stuthst WILLIAM T. HOPKINS.

GENT.'S FURNISHING GOODS.

SUITABLE ARTICLES

For Presentation to Gentlemen.

FANCY SCARFS AND NECKTIES.
GLOVES AND GAUNTLETS.
FANCY BORDERED LINEN HDKFS.
EAR MUFFS AND MUFFLERS.
WRIST COMFORTERS, OF SILK AND WOOL
SILK SUSPENDERS.
SHIRT STUDS AND SLEEVE BUTTONS.
HEMSTITCHED LINEN HDKFS.
DRIVING GLOVES, ETC. ETC.

The above may be had in great variety and at very low prices at

LINFORD LUKENS'

GENTS' FURNISHING BAZAAR,

No. 43 S. EIGHTH Street,

Above Chesnut street. 12 1 thS1

GREAT REDUCTION.

Preparatory to taking account of stock January 1, we will, until that date, offer our large stock of

MEN'S FURNISHING GOODS

Greatly Below Usual Prices,

As we have, in addition to a complete assortment of

Shirts, Underwear, and Hosiery,

An elegant variety of Fancy Goods, comprising Scarfs, Ties, Gloves, Cardigan Jackets, and other requisites for gentlemen, with a rich stock of

WRAPPERS AND BREAKFAST COATS.

This will afford an opportunity for procuring

Holiday Presents at Moderate Prices.

WINCHESTER & CO.,

12 10 thstu t12 31 **No. 706 CHESNUT St.**

ESHLEMAN

BROTHERS

WILL OPEN A NEW STOCK OF

Men's Furnishing Goods,

AT

No. 1004 CHESNUT Street,

ON DECEMBER 15.

Selling off Old Stock at [12 14 1mrp

SEVENTH AND CHESNUT STREETS.

H. S. K. G.

Harris' Seamless Kid Gloves.

EVERY PAIR WARRANTED.

EXCLUSIVE AGENTS FOR GENTS' GLOVES

J. W. SCOTT & CO.,

5 27rp **NO. 814 CHESNUT STREET.**

PATENT SHOULDER-SEAM

SHIRT MANUFACTORY,

AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING STORE.

PERFECT FITTING SHIRTS AND DRAWERS made from measurement at very short notice.
All other articles of GENTLEMEN'S DRESS GOODS in full variety.

WINCHESTER & CO.,

11 2 No. 706 CHESNUT Street.

OPERA GLASSES.

OPERA GLASSES.

A large and elegant variety.

GOLD SPECTACLES,
MAGIC LANTERNS,

A very large assortment

MICROSCOPES,
STEREOSCOPES, and
STEREOSCOPIC VIEWS,

And a large variety of Useful and Ornamental articles for

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

WILLIAM Y. McALLISTER,

12 11 12rp No. 728 CHESNUT Street.

OPERA GLASSES.

One of the best assortments, including many new designs, just received, and for sale at low prices by

JAMES W. QUEEN & CO.,

No. 924 CHESNUT Street,

12 4 fmwrp PHILADELPHIA.

COTTON AND FLAX,
SAIL DUCK AND CANVAS,
Of all numbers and brands.
Tent, Awning, Trunk, and Wagon Cover Duck.
Also, Paper Manufacturers' Drier Felts, from one to several feet wide; Paulins, Belting, Sail Twine, etc
JOHN W. EVERMAN & CO.,
No. 108 JONES Alley.

FINANCIAL.

THE

UNION PACIFIC

RAILROAD COMPANY

OFFER A LIMITED AMOUNT OF THEIR

First Mortgage Bonds

AT PAR.

Nine Hundred and Sixty Miles

Of the line West from Omaha are now completed, and the work is going on through the Winter. As the distance between the finished portion of the Union and Central Pacific Railroads is now less than 400 miles, and both Companies are pushing forward the work with great energy, employing over 30,000 men, there can be no doubt that the whole

Grand Line to the Pacific

Will be Open for Business in the Summer of 1869.

The regular Government Commissioners have pronounced the Union Pacific Railroad to be FIRST-CLASS in every respect, and the Special Commission appointed by the President says:—

"Taken as a whole, THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD HAS BEEN WELL CONSTRUCTED, AND THE GENERAL ROUTE FOR THE LINE EXCEEDINGLY WELL SELECTED. The energy and perseverance with which the work has been urged forward and the rapidity with which it has been executed are without parallel in history, and in grandeur and magnitude of undertaking it has never been equalled." The Report states that any deficiencies that exist are only those incident to all new roads, and that could not have been avoided without materially retarding the progress of the great work. Such deficiencies are supplied by all railroad companies after the completion of the line, when and wherever experience shows them to be necessary. The report concludes by saying that "the country has reason to congratulate itself that this great work of national importance is so rapidly approaching completion under such favorable auspices." The Company now have in use 127 locomotives and nearly 2000 cars of all descriptions. A large additional equipment is ordered to be ready in the Spring. The grading is nearly completed, and ties distributed for 120 miles in advance of the western end of the track. Fully 120 miles of iron for new track are now delivered west of the Missouri River, and 90 miles more are *en route*. The total expenditures for construction purposes in advance of the completed portion of the road is not less than eight million dollars

Besides a donation from the Government of 2,560 acres of land per mile, the Company is entitled to a subsidy in U. S. Bonds on its line as completed and accepted, at the average rate of about $29,000 per mile, according to the difficulties encountered, for which the Government takes a second lien as security. The Company have already received $22,158,000 of this subsidy, of which $1,280,000 was paid Dec. 6, and $640,000 Dec. 14.

Government Aid—Security of the Bonds.

By its charter, the Company is permitted to issue its own FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS to the same amount as the Government Bonds, *and no more.* These Bonds are a First Mortgage upon the whole road and all its equipments. Such a mortgage upon what, for a long time, will be the only railroad connecting the Atlantic and Pacific States, takes the highest rank as a safe security. The earnings from the way or local business for the year ending June 30, 1868, on an average of 472 miles, were over FOUR MILLION DOLLARS, which, after paying all expenses, were much more than sufficient to cover all interest liability upon that distance, and the earnings for the last five months have been $2 366,870. They would have been greater if the road had not been taxed to its utmost capacity to transport its own material for construction. The income from the great passenger travel, the China freights, and the supplies for the new Rocky Mountain States and Territories, must be ample for all interest and other liabilities. No political action can reduce the rate of interest. It must remain for thirty years—*six per cent. per annum in gold*, now equal to between eight and nine per cent. in currency. *The principal is then payable in gold.* If a bond with such guarantees were issued by the Government, its market price would not be less than from 20 to 25 per cent. premium. As these bonds are issued under Government authority and supervision, upon what is very largely a Government work, they must ultimately approach Government prices. No other corporate bonds are made so secure.

The price for the present is PAR, and accrued interest at 6 per cent. from July 1, 1868, in currency.

Subscriptions will be received in Philadelphia by

DE HAVEN & BRO.,

No. 40 S. THIRD Street.

WM. S. PAINTER & CO.,

No. 36 S. THIRD Street,

And in New York

AT THE COMPANY'S OFFICE,

No. 20 NASSAU Street,

AND BY

JOHN J. CISCO & SON, BANKERS,

No. 59 WALL Street,

And by the Company's advertised Agents throughout the United States.

Bonds sent free, but parties subscribing through local agents will look to them for their safe delivery.

A NEW PAMPHLET AND MAP WAS ISSUED OCTOBER 1, containing a report of the progress of the work to that date, and a more complete statement in relation to the value of the bonds than can be given in an advertisement, which will be sent free on application at the Company's offices, or to any of the advertised agents.

The Coupons of the First Mortgage Bonds

OF THE

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY,

DUE JANUARY 1, 1869,

Will be paid on and after that date,

IN GOLD COIN, free of Government Tax,

At the Company's office,

No. 20 NASSAU Street, New York.

Schedules with twenty or more coupons will now be received for examination, and gold checks for the same will be delivered December 30.

JOHN J. CISCO, TREASURER,

NEW YORK.

Dec. 15, 1868. 12 17 thstu1m

FINANCIAL.

Union Pacific Railroad.

WE ARE NOW SELLING

The First Mortgage Gold Interest Bonds

OF THIS COMPANY AT

PAR AND INTEREST,

At which rate the holder of GOVERNMENT SECURITIES can make a profitable exchange.

COUPONS due January 1 CASHED, or bought at full rates for Gold.

WM. PAINTER & CO.,

BANKERS AND DEALERS IN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES,

No. 36 South THIRD Street,

6 14 PHILADELPHIA.

E. W. CLARK & CO.

BANKERS,

No. 35 SOUTH THIRD STREET,

PHILADELPHIA.

DEALERS IN

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES,

STOCK, GOLD

AND NOTE BROKERS.

Accounts of Banks, Firms, and Individuals received, subject to check at sight.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON BALANCES.

GENERAL AGENTS,

FOR

PENNSYLVANIA AND SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY,

OF THE

NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY is a corporation chartered by special Act of Congress, approved July 25, 1868, with a

CASH CAPITAL, $1,000,000, FULL PAID.

Liberal terms offered to Agents and Solicitors, who are invited to apply at our office.

Full particulars to be had on application at our office, located in the second story of our Banking House, where Circulars and Pamphlets, fully describing the advantages offered by the Company, may be had.

E. W. CLARK & CO.,

No. 35 South Third St.

SMITH, RANDOLPH & CO.

BANKERS PHILA. & N. YORK

Dealers in United States Bonds, and Members of Stock and Gold Exchange,

Receive Accounts of Banks and Bankers on Liberal Terms,

ISSUE BILLS OF EXCHANGE ON

C. J. HAMBRO & SON, LONDON,
B. METZLER, S. SOHN & CO., FRANKFORT
JAMES W. TUCKER & CO., PARIS,

And Other Principal Cities, and Letters of Credit Available Throughout Europe.

SMITH, RANDOLPH & CO.,

S. W. corner THIRD and CHESNUT Sts.,

11 28 PHILADELPHIA.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS

At Par,

AND ACCRUED INTEREST.

CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD

FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS

At 103,

AND ACCRUED INTEREST.

FOR SALE BY

DE HAVEN & BRO.

No. 40 SOUTH THIRD STREET,

6 25 PHILADELPHIA.

THE SAFE DEPOSIT COMPANY,

For Safe Keeping of Valuables, Securities, etc., and Renting of Safes,

DIRECTORS

N. B. Browne,	J. Gillingham Fell,	Alex. Henry,
C. H. Clarke	C. Macalester,	S. A. Caldwell,
John Weish.	E. W. Clark,	Geo. F. Tyler.

OFFICE, No. 421 CHESNUT STREET.

N. B. BROWNE, President
C. H. CLARK, Vice-President
E. PATTERSON, Sec. and Treasurer. 1 15 wfm1

FINANCIAL.

STERLING & WILDMAN,

BANKERS AND BROKERS,

No. 110 South THIRD Street,

AGENTS FOR SALE OF

First Mortgage Bonds of Rockford, Rock Island, and St. Louis Railroad,

Interest SEVEN PER CENT., clear of all taxes payable in GOLD August and February, for sale 97½ and accrued interest in currency. Also

First Mortgage Bonds of the Danville Hazleton, and Wilkesbarre Railroad.

Interest SEVEN PER CENT., CLEAR OF ALL TAXES, payable April and October, for sale at 85 and accrued interest

Pamphlets with maps, reports, and full information of these roads always on hand for distribution.

DEALERS in Government Bonds, Gold, Silver, Coupons, etc.

STOCKS of all kinds bought and sold on commission in New York and Philadelphia. 11 3 tuths

GLENDINNING, DAVIS & CO.

No. 48 South THIRD Street,

PHILADELPHIA.

GLENDINNING DAVIS & AMORY

No. 2 NASSAU St., New York,

BANKERS AND BROKERS.

Direct telegraphic communication with the New York Stock Boards from the Philadelphia Office. 12 2 tf

BANKING HOUSE

OF

JAY COOKE & CO.

Nos. 112 and 114 South THIRD Street,

PHILADELPHIA.

Dealers in all Government Securities.
Old 5-20s Wanted in Exchange for New.
A Liberal Difference allowed.
Compound Interest Notes Wanted.
Interest Allowed on Deposits.

COLLECTIONS MADE. STOCKS bought and sold on Commission.

Special business accommodations reserved for ladies.

We will receive applications for Policies of Life Insurance in the National Life Insurance Company of the United States. Full information given at our office.

BLANK BOOKS.

AWARDED THE ONLY MEDAL

FOR

BLANK BOOKS

By the Paris Exposition, 1867.

WILLIAM F. MURPHY'S SONS,

No. 339 CHESNUT Street

AND

No. 55 South FOURTH Street,

Blank Book Manufacturers,

STATIONERS,

And Steam Power Printers.

A complete stock of well-seasoned BLANK BOOKS of our own manufacture.

A full stock of COUNTING-HOUSE STATIONERY of every description. 12 14mwf12 1

BLANK BOOKS.

WILLIAM M. CHRISTY,

Blank Book Manufacturer, Stationer and Printer,

No. 127 South THIRD Street.

LEDGERS,
DAY BOOKS,
CASH BOOKS, ETC.,
ON HAND OR MADE TO ORDER.

A large assortment of Foreign and Domestic Stationery constantly on hand.

Publisher of SMITH'S CALCULATIONS OF THE PROOF OF LIQUORS. [12 1tuths t12 3trp

JAMES B. SMITH & CO.,

BLANK BOOK

MANUFACTURERS,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

No. 27 South SEVENTH Street,

12 18 fmw3m] PHILADELPHIA.

STATIONERS.

UMBRELLAS, ETC.

UMBRELLAS

OF THE LATEST

LONDON AND PARIS STYLES,

FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS,

FOR SALE BY

WM. A. DROWN & CO.,

No. 246 MARKET Street,

12 9 3m PHILADELPHIA.

THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

VOL. X--No 149. PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1868. TRIPLE SHEET--THREE CENTS.

FIRST EDITION

PARAGUAY.

News from the Seat of War--A Letter from the "Tyrant" Lopez.

The *Anglo-Brazilian Times* says:--"Mr. Washburn, late United States Minister to Paraguay, is now here. He says that Paraguay is in a terrible state of penury and despotism, but that the allied purpose of separating Lopez from the Government is utterly hopeless, as the Paraguayans look up to him as their greatest patriot, and are willing to make any sacrifice he may demand of them. Luxuries and provisions had been hitherto easily procured from Bolivia. Many very strong positions existed to which the Paraguayan army could retire should that of Villeta be untenable, and Lopez's policy was not to fight but to exhaust the Brazilian army and finances by prolonging the struggle.'

It is, however, evident that the end is not far when the President of the Argentine Republic had liberated all the Paraguayan prisoners showing that nothing was feared from their return.

There is no statement that the American fleet or a portion of it had gone up to exact justice from Lopez, for all that we find concerning it is that "at Montevideo the American squadron was reported to be under orders to ascend to Paraguay, accompanying the new United States minister, General McMahon."

By Atlantic cable we have news from the seat of war, by way of Lisbon, to the 6th of November, showing that the flank movement of General Argollo had almost reached Asuncion. A fuller detail of the plan, brought by the Merrimack, is as follows:--

"It is stated that the Marquis de Caxias had ordered all the naval and military forces to be ready for the immediate prosecution of the flank movement for which General Argollo's corps was intended, and that the generalissimo's plan was to co-operate with the movement of that corps by an assault in front and a general bombardment by the squadron.

"The majority of the iron-clads were above Angostura. Various attempts had been made to destroy vessels with torpedoes, but hitherto without success, owing to the precautions observed.

"General Argollo, with twelve thousand men, was still in the Chaco, and on the 24th of October had effected communication with the division of iron-clads which had passed above the batteries of Angostura. The work of making the road suitable for the transport of the army train was being pushed rapidly, and it is said that by the 20th of November the road would be ready for use."

Lopez issued a proclamation on the 16th of October, before the iron-clads had passed Angostura, seven leagues from Asuncion. The reference to the "weak and cowardly spirits" who "surrendered" doubtless refers to the victims mentioned in the Washburn correspondence. The following is the concluding portion of his proclamation:--

"The moment of trial overtook us, the weak and cowardly spirit, succumbed, the great and generous, however remained to convince the world more than ever, to what degree we worship our country and our liberty, how dear to us is a single victim offered upon its altars, and how indelible and cherished is the remembrance of it.

"Fellow countrymen! Thanks to the wonderful intervention of God, we have escaped the greater calamity. Let us raise our hands to Heaven, and more than ever confide in His mercy, let us discharge our duties as Christians to our country, and by the grace of God and the force of our arms posterity shall hail the Republic of Paraguay great and glorious.

"Headquarters, Surubihy, October 16, 1868.

"FRANCISCO SOLANO LOPEZ."

GENERAL GRANT.

His Plan of Retrenchment.

The New York *Tribune* says editorially this morning:--

We have splendid news from Washington. General Grant has taken a step which will endear him still more to every patriot. Instead of waiting for the hour of his new office, he announces a "policy" that will do more good than a thousand orations. He demands from Congress honesty and economy. The time to squander has ceased; and if our easy-going Representatives intend to vote millions for every plausible scheme, it must be done over the veto of the new President. This simple declaration will save millions to a depleted Treasury. We must pay our debts before incurring new ones, and especially we must stop the wholesale waste of money and lands covered by the many railroad schemes. We accept General Grant's declaration in the joyful hope that we have seen an end of real estate speculations in the unprofitable dominions of other countries, of immense "lawyer's fees" for Washington lobbyists--of land grants and Indian treaties--and of the astounding frauds in the collection of the customs and taxes. Let economy be the word, and the country will respond! Any Congressman who presumes to stand in the way will be rebuked by the people. General Grant is right, and the nation will give him an enthusiastic support.

--We look for his coming as men who gaze through the darkest night and fervently yearn for morning. This is a sign of the coming day, and we feel assured that it will be a day of glorious and beneficent works, of economy, honesty, and peace.

EARTHQUAKES.

An Incident of the Chilian Convulsion.

The Panama *Star* has the following:--

"On the evening of the 10th ultimo, died in Valparaiso, Mrs. Davidson, one of the sufferers by the terrible earthquake of the 13th of August. She was a widow, and was living at Arica with her son when this catastrophe occurred, he finding her after the first heavy shock partially buried under the ruins of their house. With some assistance she was got out, but so badly bruised that she could not sit up. While they sought further help she was carried away by the sea, which began to invade the town a few minutes before six o'clock; she however had managed to get her arms through a broken door, and that kept her afloat. She was washed on to a small island hard by; but the waters left her there only fifteen minutes. A boat was despatched to her rescue by the Peruvian corvette America; it was half full of water by the time it picked her up, and she had been in the sea eight hours and three quarters. The turbulent state of the waters baffled all efforts to return to the ship, so the men put their boat out to sea to wait till daylight, and reached the shore at about six o'clock on the following morning. For three days she lay exposed to the scorching rays of the sun and the cold night dews, without any other shelter than that afforded by a common blanket that her son was able to get. After an unavailing effort to get to Valparaiso by the mail steamer, she reached here by the Esmeralda on the 27th of September. Every care was taken of the unfortunate lady, but the shock and attendant suffering had been too severe for her to bear."

DEPARTMENT FRAUDS.

Queer Developments in the Quartermaster's Bureau at Washington.

The New York *Herald's* Washington despatches published this morning contain the following:--

Some queer developments in regard to the manner in which our common uncle's property is disposed of by officers of the army who are accountable for its preservation have been made within the last few days. These disclosures prove that all the departments of the Government are given to slight irregularities in handling the public property and money. The country has been entertained for many months past with rich revelations concerning frauds in the Treasury, Post Office, and Interior Departments; but since the questions of who made the most money in the Ordnance Bureau has quieted down and who did the most profitable business in paying the bounties to colored troops has been hushed up, very little in relation to frauds in the War Department has appeared. Now the War Department comes in again for charges of questionable dealing, if not of downright fraud. This time the Quartermaster's Bureau is the scene of operations. There is a good deal of difficulty encountered in ascertaining the exact facts in the case, but what little is known is enough to show very clearly that certain officers of the army have either been guilty of premeditated fraud or gross mismanagement, or else they have been grossly wronged. The facts, so far as they are known, are as follows:--In July and August last Forts C. F. Smith and Reno, in Montana Territory, were abandoned, and the United States property was sold at auction. It is contended by many persons who are well acquainted with affairs in that country that the order to abandon those forts created no little surprise, as the necessity for their continuance was then, and is yet, just as great when they were established. The order, however, was issued, and advertisements, it is said, were published in several Western papers, announcing that the buildings and other public property at these forts would be sold to the highest bidders on or about the 1st of June. Those who dwelt in the vicinity of these spots were well aware of the value of public property there, and its worth was variously estimated at from $100,000 to $200,000. One individual, believing that in order to settle up affairs as speedily as possible the officer in charge would probably sell the property at a large sacrifice, went to the General Commanding and offered him $40,000 for the whole concern at Fort Smith. The General gave him encouragement to expect that his offer would be accepted. When the person who made the offer came a few days later to close the bargain, and pay a portion of the money, the General informed him that he could not dispose of the property at private sale, and when he spoke to him about it before he was not aware that the property was already advertised for sale at auction. When the day of sale arrived no bidders appeared, and the accounting officer took the responsibility of postponing it for about ten days. At the expiration of that time a very small group of persons were assembled, considering the great value of the property for sale and the large number of people in that part of the country who needed just such materials as were to be sold. The absence of bidders was an indication that there was a screw loose somewhere, and it is intimated that the loose screw was in the feeble manner in which the announcement of the sale was made. At all events, there were but few persons present, and all of them proved to be spectators, except one. Only one bidder could be found and all the public property at Fort Smith, estimated to be worth nearly $200,000, was knocked down to the single bidder for $4500. This property consisted of several buildings, one steam sawmill, one water mill, saw and grist; a large quantity of clothing, camp and garrison equipage, quartermaster's stores, stoves, etc. The steam mill sold for fifty dollars and the other articles in proportion. The only explanation of this alarming sacrifice of public property is that the forts had to be abandoned, as the troops were to be withdrawn, and the country was filled with hostile Indians. The sale was advertised as extensively as possible for three months before it occurred. There is no law which authorizes accounting officers to sell United States property in any other way than by auction, and if the property had not been sold at that time it would have been necessary to destroy it to prevent the Indians from obtaining possession. The property at Fort Reno was sacrificed, it is alleged, in the same manner, and the lucky purchaser, notwithstanding the hostility of the Indians, took off his bargains and realized to the tune of $100,000.

JAMES FISK, JR.

His Attempt to Intimidate the Press.

The N. Y. *Commercial Advertiser* of yesterday has the following spicy editorial comments on the most recent manœuvre of James Fisk, Jr.:--

Mr. James Fisk, Jr., appears in a new role this morning. Having with his confederates financiered Erie from above seventy down to below forty; having engaged in a lively epistolary bout with Commodore Vanderbilt, and, if we are to believe his own affidavit, brought the venerable Drew down on his marrow bones; having purchased a steamboat line, become proprietor of an opera house, and, according to report, laid the plans for inaugurating a revolution in operatic management, this enterprising carpet-bagger, late of the Hub, cast about him with the eye of an Alexander, for fresh fields for notoriety.

He would become the Dictator of the Press. The elder Napoleon shot dead a German journalist, and Napoleon II. has imposed pains and penalties upon innumerable French editors. Why should not he, Fisk, who thus far has ridden rough-shod with impunity, muzzle the American press, and frighten every newspaper into silence on matters which he might deem undesirable for publication? For some time daily journals have been receiving notes of warning or menace. Last night Samuel Bowles, the intimate friend of the Vice President elect, and proprietor of one of the most talented and high-toned papers in the country, was seized in a public place at Fisk's behest, and rapidly borne off to the Ludlow Street Jail. Here was incarcerated during the night like a common felon, and only obtained his liberty this morning by giving the unparalleled bail of $50,000. During the entire night, ineffectual efforts were made to secure his release. He was set upon in a most offensive and unexpected manner. His arrest was clearly so planned as to effect his incarceration without hope of bail for some time.

For once, Mr. James Fisk, Jr., has undertaken a job which we fear he will be unable to carry through. If he supposes that he can intimidate and frighten the press by such performances as that of last night, he labors under a hallucination which he would do well to dispel at once. Mr. Bowles, whose character and reputation present a striking contrast to those of certain other individuals, is charged with libel in having used too strong language concerning the Erie robberies. Formerly, the greater the truth, the greater was the libel. The law of this State now reads, however:--"In all criminal prosecutions or indictments for libels, the truth may be given in evidence to the jury; and if it shall appear to the jury that the matter charged as libellous is true, and was published with good motives and for justifiable ends, the party shall be acquitted."

Those who know Mr. Bowles and the character of the Springfield *Republican* would not for a moment doubt that his reflections upon the Erie management were dictated by "good motives," and were published for "justifiable ends."

--An Ohio boy smashed his father's head because the latter came home "drunk and disorderly." This family discipline resulted in a funeral.

SUPERSTITION.

A Singular Motive for Murder.

The great case of poisoning at the Assize Court of Aix, France, discloses a most wonderful jumble of crime, ignorance, and superstitious piety. Three women in the condition of thriving shopkeepers, one of whom is young, handsome, and wealthy, confess to having got rid of their husbands by means of drugs and potions, supplied for the purpose by a cunning man and woman--fortune-tellers and vendors of charms. Some of the prisoners say--and the state of their mental development render the statement credible enough--they did not think they were poisoning their husbands, but only understood that they were to be bewitched in such a way that death would be the result. The prisoner Jove, a herbalist, who supplied the poison, arsenic and belladonna, gave directions to one of the women that after the powder had been administered she should buy a black ribbon, put it round her neck, and recite a *pater noster*, and when she came to the words, "in earth as it is in heaven," her husband would die as if by enchantment. One of the wives had scruples, not of conscience, but of prudence, and expressed fears to her mother that she would certainly be found out. The mother comforted and encouraged her by the assurance that if she would buy a wax candle and burn it before the altar of the famous Chapel of Notre Dame de la Garde at Marseilles, the Virgin would protect her from discovery. The fortune-telling woman, Madame Lamberi, *tireuse des cartes*, who introduced the three murderous wives, all unknown to each other, to the seller of simples, was in the habit of visiting sick children, making the sign of the cross on their foreheads, and muttering prayers. Aix is crowd with visitors and reporters from all parts of France and Belgium.

WHITE HOUSE PIETY.

What Presidents Have been Pious--Statement of a Boston Correspondent--Only One Pious President.

The New York correspondent of a Boston paper says:--

"The fact that General Grant passed a Sabbath at West Point and did not attend church, though the Post Chaplain officiated near him, has been commented on by the press generally. It is somewhat a singular fact that, as far as it is known, no President of the United States, since the days of Washington, has been a communicant in a church. John Adams was the representative of the liberal community of his day. Jefferson was styled a free-thinker. An attempt was made, when Jefferson was a young man, to make the Episcopal Church the established religion of Virginia. John Leland, a travelling Baptist minister, preached a sermon in the presence of Jefferson on what he called incestuous connection of the Church and State.' This sermon converted Jefferson to that doctrine. His persistent opposition to a state religion caused him to be stigmatized as an infidel. Mrs. Madison was a communicant at the Episcopal Church. Her husband was not. Monroe was a member of an Episcopal parish, but not a communicant. John Quincy Adams, although a member of the Unitarian parish in Massachusetts, held a pew in the Second Presbyterian Church in Washington, of which he was a trustee, and there he worshipped until his death. In a violent snow storm I saw him walking to church one Sunday, with the snow up to his loins, and he was one of the seven persons who composed the congregation that morning. He never communed in the church. General Jackson was a regular attendant on Sunday morning. He worshipped in the Second Presbyterian Church until his quarrel with the pastor about Mr. Eaton. He then left for the Four-and-a-half Street Church and took his Cabinet with him. He always came early and entered his pew, which was on the right side of the church as he entered. Earnest and devout attention he gave to the sermon. It was his custom, at the close of the sermon, to rise in his pew and make a very courteous bow to the minister, and then walk out, the audience waiting in their pews till he had reached the vestibule. Van Buren's home church at Kinderhook was Reformed Dutch. At Washington, when he went to church, he attended St. John's (episcopal) in the morning. Mrs. Polk was a devout and earnest Christian woman, belonging to the Presbyterian Church.

"Mr. Polk accompanied his family every Sunday morning to the Four-and-a-half Street Church. Mrs. Polk usually attended the Second Presbyterian Church in the afternoon, where she had a pew. The President seldom accompanied her at the second service. General Taylor was not a professor of religion. When he attended church he sat in the President's pew at St John's. President Pierce was a member of the Congregational society in Concord, New Hampshire, but not of the church. He was very regular in his attendance on Fourth street, near the White House. This was his religious home during his long Senatorial life. He was not a member of the church. He came to worship usually on foot and unattended. His pew was on the side, about two-thirds of the way from the door. He usually walked up the aisle with a cat-like step, went to the extreme end of the pew, curled himself up in the corner, and seldom moved till the service closed. He rarely spoke to any one, and hastened from the church to the White House. Mrs. Lincoln was a communicant at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. Mr. Lincoln was not. But he was a regular attendant at worship. Johnson seems to have no religious home, but rather inclines to the Lutherans. General Grant is not a professor of religion. He is a trustee of the National Methodist Church at Washington, and is a frequent attendant on the preaching of that church."

New York Money Market.

--The N. Y. *Tribune* of this morning, in speaking of the financial operations of yesterday says:--

"Government bonds were steady, but the activity in money checked business. Considerable purchases continue to be made for investment by savings banks and others having funds in trust. At the Second Board prices declined ½ per cent. on pressure to sell for cash. State and railway bonds were dull and neglected. Money opened in sharp demand at 7 per cent in gold and 7 per cent. in currency, with a commission added. The rates for carrying stocks show the activity in money; ½ was paid for one day, and from 1@1¼ per cent. was paid for thirty days. At the close of business the rates were less firm, and loans on Government and miscellaneous securities were made at 7 per cent, in currency."

--The New York *Herald* says:--

"The money market was active to stringency in the first half of the business hours of the day. The activity at the close on Tuesday induced leaders to keep back their funds this morning for higher rates, and the consequence was a very severe pinch, particularly among the needier and weaker classes of borrowers, who paid the full legal rate in gold, with commissions ranging from one-sixteenth to one-quarter of one per cent. The great volume of business was done at seven per cent. in coin until the half hour before 3 o'clock, when the 'Shylocks' who had not 'placed' their money became anxious, and were more freely offering the rate declining to seven per cent. currency. There is money enough in the city to satisfy the demand, and all succeeded in getting what they wanted, but at extreme rates. There is a tendency on the part of a great many merchants and others to decline engagements until after the holidays and their withdrawal would create an easing of rates, were it not for the contraction of loans by the banks in preparation for the quarterly statement. The great amount of money invested in stocks through the renewed speculative feeling engendered by the rise in New York Central is also a cause of stringency. The high rates of interest prevailing in the metropolis are attracting money from other financial centres, about half a million coming in to-day from Boston, and some relief might be expected from these sources were not their inability made manifest during the great money stringency produced by the Erie clique, when the coffers of nearly all the country banks were emptied into New York without avail. The West needs no more money, and a large proportion of the Southern cotton crop has been already moved, so that an easier money market is expected after the passage of quarter day with the banks and the advent of the new year."

--A F. F. V. has brought a slander suit against a Richmond milliner.

--A West Virginian whipped his wife, the other day, for unexampled extravagance in eating both butter and molasses on her bread.

SECOND EDITION

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

Failures in Baltimore--A Crisis Feared in the Money Market.

Financial and Commercial

FROM BALTIMORE.

Mercantile Failures--Stringency in the Money Market.

Special Despatch to The Evening Telegraph.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 24.--There have been several mercantile suspensions and failures here within the past few days--some very heavy. Chief amongst them is the old established house of Turnbull, Slade & Go., Germon street, which it is said suspends in consequence of the large house in New York with which they are connected, Slade, Turnbull & Co., having suspended for a million and a half of dollars, the Baltimore house for about a million dollars. Nearly all our banks lose more or less, some as high as forty thousand dollars. There are hopes of a compromise and continuance of both concerns.

Money here is reported scarce and very tight, and harder times still are apprehended. Our city yesterday was filled with rowdies and Northern bullies, who came on to attend the prize-fight between Hicken and McGuire, at Perryville. Pocket-picking and thieving naturally increased. All are now absorbed in Christmas. The streets are crowded with pedestrians. Good things are abundant. Presents innumerable.

FROM CONNECTICUT.

Burning of the Waterbury Episcopal Church.

Special Despatch to The Evening Telegraph.

WATERBURY, Conn., Dec. 24.--Shortly before 5 o'clock this morning the St. John's Episcopal Church was discovered to be on fire. The flames spread with great rapidity, and by daylight the building was in ruins. The church was constructed of stone, and was one of the finest edifices in the city. The fire probably originated in a defective flue. The loss is about one hundred thousand dollars. Insured for thirty-five thousand dollars in the following companies, viz:--Ætna, Hartford, Phœnix, City, and Connecticut, of Hartford, five thousand each, Atlantic, of Providence, five thousand, and Insurance Company of North America, of Philadelphia, five thousand.

Burning of a Church.

HUDSON, N. Y., Dec. 24.--The Reformed Dutch Church at Ghent was totally destroyed by fire to-day. It was a large wooden edifice, and one of the oldest churches in the country. A Christmas festival was held there last night, which probably accounts for the origin of the fire.

Fatal Accident.

BOSTON, Dec. 24.--George Maffitt, a scene-shifter at the Theatre Comique, aged 24 years, was instantly killed, last night, by falling twenty-five feet, from the flies to the stage.

THE EUROPEAN MARKETS

By Atlantic Cable.

This Morning's Quotations.

LONDON, Dec. 24--A. M.--Consols for money, 92¾; for account, 92¾@92¾. U. S. Five-twenties, 74½. Erie Railroad, 24¾; Illinois Central, 95¼.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 24--A. M.--Cotton quiet; the sales of to-day are estimated at 12,000 bales.

To-morrow being Christmas, the weekly *Cotton Circular* is issued to-day. The sales of the week were 81,000; exports, 16,000; for speculation, 11,000 bales. The stock in port is 335,000 bales, including 59,000 bales of American.

LONDON, Dec. 24.--Refined Petroleum, 1s. 8d.

The Crippled Steamer Columbia.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 24.--The steamer City of Antwerp, which arrived on the 22d, reports having passed the steamer Columbia under sail on the 19th inst., in long. 29, on the usual route.

This Afternoon's Quotations.

LONDON, Dec. 24--P. M.--Consols for money, 92¾; for account, 92¾@92¾; United States five-twenties dull at 74¾.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 24--P. M. -- Cotton afloat 269,000 bales, of which 115,000 bales are American. Lard heavy at 66s. 6d. Spirits of Turpentine, 26s. 6d.

LONDON, Dec. 24--P. M.--Tallow, 48s.

HAVRE, Dec. 24--P. M.--Cotton easier, for both on the spot and to arrive; sales at 123f. on the spot and 121½f. to arrive.

Markets by Telegraph.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.--Stocks strong. Chicago and Rock Island, 112. Reading, 97½; Canton Co., 46¾; Erie, 28; Cleveland and Toledo 99¾; Cleveland and Pittsburg, 83; Pittsburg and Fort Wayne, 111½; Michigan Central, 118; Michigan Southern, 92½; New York Central, 149; Illinois Central, 143; Cumberland preferred, 37; Virginia 6s, 57; Missouri 6s, 90; Hudson River, 121; 5-20s, 1867, 110; do, 1864, 106¼; do. 1865, 107; do. new, 109½; 10-40s 103. Gold, 134¾; Money, 7 per cent, Exchange, 109¾.

Stock Quotations by Telegraph--1 P. M.

Glendinning, Davis & Co. report through their New York house the following:--

N. Y. Cent. R.	150½	Western Union T.	33¼
N. Y. and E. R.	39	Cleveland and Tol.	99⅞
Phil. and Rea. R.	97½	Tol. & Wabash R.	57⅜
Mich. S. and N. I. R.	87⅜	Mil. & St. P. com.	68½
Cle. and Pitt. R.	83¼	Adam Express Co	48¼
Chi. and N. W. com.	79	Wells, Fargo & Co.	24½
Chic and N. W. prf.	81½	U. S. Express Co.	45¼
Chi. and R. I. R.	111⅜	Tennessee 6s	68½
Pts, F. W. and Chi.	111½	Gold	134⅝
Pa. M. Steam. Co.	119	Market firm.	

Philadelphia Trade Report.

THURSDAY, Dec. 24.--The Flour market presents no new feature, and only a few hundred barrels were taken by the home consumers at $5@5 50 for superfine; $6@6 50 for extras; $7 25@8 12½ for Northwestern extra family; $8 50@10 50 for common and good Pennsylvania and Ohio do. do., and $11@13 for fancy brands, according to quality. Rye Flour sells in a small way at $7 40@8 per bbl. Nothing doing in Corn Meal.

There is no spirit in the Wheat market, and no inquiry except from the local millers, who purchase good and prime lots, which are scarce. Sales of red at $1 90@2 05 and amber at $2 10@2 12. Rye is steady, with sales of Western and Pennsylvania at $1 60. Corn moves slowly at the present decline. Sales of new yellow at 80@82c, and new white at 85@90c. Oats are without essential change. Sales of 2000 bushels Western at 76@78c.

Nothing doing in Barley or Malt.

Bark--In the absence of sales we quote No. 1 Quercitron at $42 per ton.

--A Kentucky sheriff attached a set of false teeth for taxes.

--Czar Alexander is having locomotives made to run on ice.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE HILL MURDER.

The Trial of George S. Twitchell, Jr.

SEVENTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Continued from Seventh Page.

COURT OF OYER AND TERMINER--Judges Brewster and Ludlow. District Attorneys Sheppard and Hagert and Richard Ludlow for the Commonwealth; T. B. Ransford, J. T. Pratt, C. H. T. Collis, John O'Byrne, and William B. Mann, Esqs. for the defense.

This morning, the seventh of this trial, the court met at 10 o'clock; at 11 the examination of the Commonwealth's witnesses was resumed.

In regard to the application made last evening by the defense for the surrender to them of the prisoner's clothing for inspection by an expert selected by themselves, the Judges this morning gave the following decisions:--

Judge Brewster. The articles identified by the officers as the clothing of the defendant having been examined by Dr. Levis, and his opinion having been given to the jury as the result of his examinations thereof, the defendant's counsel have moved that the defendant's expert be permitted to examine them in the presence of officers of the Court. The District Attorney has opposed this motion, stating that he is willing that the examination shall take place as desired, if the name of the defendant's expert is submitted to and approved by the Court. The defendant has declined to submit the name of this expert, and has insisted upon his absolute right to have the articles examined when, where, and by whom he pleases, conceding only that the officers of the Court may be present. The articles having been exhibited to the jury, and some of them having been handed to the jury itself, must be regarded as in evidence. The defendant should have the fullest right of examination accorded to him consistent with the preservation of the articles from accidental or intentional destruction. If the object is to inspect by the use of glasses, this can be accomplished in open court or in an adjoining room in the presence of officers. If the purpose is to secure a chemical analysis, I think the defendant is entitled, as a matter of right, to have such an examination made by any expert he may select; but, to guard against the possible destruction of important evidence, the tests should be applied in the presence of the Court.

Judge Ludlow--A motion having been made by the prisoner's counsel to permit the clothing and other articles which Dr. Levis has examined and identified as being sprinkled, saturated, or smeared with the blood of a mammal, to be examined by some person selected by them, but not in the presence of the Court, though in the view of an officer or officers to be selected by the Court, it becomes necessary to state that in my judgment ought to be the practice of this tribunal:--

First. It is to be noted that the articles in question, except the poker, have not yet been offered in evidence, and they therefore remain in the custody of the Commonwealth's officers. This motion is, therefore, premature.

Second. If the articles shall have been offered in evidence, they are placed in the special custody of the Court to be dealt with as justice requires.

Third. Should the prisoner's counsel then desire them to be examined, the Court should see to it that they are guarded from intentional or accidental injury, with the most scrupulous care, and they may be examined in open court by any persons selected by the prisoner or his counsel, or if from necessity the examination cannot be made accurately in open court, they should be placed in the hands of any respectable chemist or physician to be selected by the prisoner, with the consent of the Court. They should be properly identified as the very articles offered in evidence by the Commonwealth, before they are delivered to the person who has been selected by the prisoner's counsel, and for this purpose that person should receive them in open court. They should then be examined in the presence of an officer or officers of the Court.

Samuel T. Davidson--I am an officer of the First National Bank at Camden N. J.

Question--Did George S Twitchell, Jr., keep an account with your bank?

This was objected to by the defense on the ground that the prisoner's means were not legal evidence of motive.

The objection was overruled, and the witness answered.

Answer--He did; there have been no transactions between the bank and Mr. Twitchell since November 10, when his balance was $2 94.

Cross-examined--He did not have a balance at the end of every month; at one time his account was overdrawn $111 90; his first deposit was $1770.

A. B. Warden sworn--I am a jeweller, at Fifth and Chesnut streets; I know the prisoner; November 21 last the prisoner applied to me for a loan of $50; I did not lend it to him.

Catherine McNally sworn--On the 22d of November last I resided at Mr. Montgomery's, in Tenth street, next door to Mrs. Hill's; I recollect the night of the murder; I was in the kitchen after tea; the kitchen adjoins Mrs. Hill's; I heard a noise between half-past nine and ten o'clock; I heard female voices in the kitchen; I heard the bell, which was rung five or six times; I was then in Mr. Montgomery's cellar, and I heard the bell in Mrs. Hill's kitchen, but up to that time I had heard no noise in Mrs. Hill's kitchen, not even the dogs.

J. M. Fletcher sworn--I am the Deputy Coroner; I went to Mrs. Hill's house at 9¼ o'clock on Monday morning, and found two officers in possession; assisted Dr. Shapleigh to arrange for the *post mortem*; I was with Mr. Warnock when the examination of the upper rooms was made; he handed me $350 in money, a diamond cluster pin, two diamond cluster-earrings, a gold watch and chain, and several pieces of gold jewelry; there was also a due-bill for $50 of George S Twitchell's handed to me; it was dated October 28, 1868; after Dr. Shapleigh had finished I requested Detective Lamon to make a search of the premises, and while he was doing it two officers came in; I took possession of the house and of the wardrobe, and locked up all the rooms that could be locked; the keys remained in my possession until the following Friday or Saturday, when I surrendered them to Mr. O'Byrne, upon an order; on Monday afternoon Mr. Lamon, Mr. Warnock, and I went down to take the deeds away; I did not go there again until Wednesday afternoon, when Mr. Warnock, Sarah and Ann Campbell, and two reporters were with me; Thursday morning I went again with the District Attorney; Thursday night I went with Mr. Warnock, Mr. Mann, and Mr. O'Byrne.

Cross-examined--I saw the letters of administration and the order of the administrator, and I delivered the keys upon his order to his counsel.

Sheriff Morgan sworn--I am Sheriff of Camden county; I have here the warrant under which to make distress upon property in Camden.

Question--Did you make distress upon the property?

Mr. Mann--We object to this, because no proof has been made of the existence of a debt that can, by the laws of New Jersey, be recovered by distress.

The Court sustained the objection.

Question--From whom did the prisoner rent?

Witness--The property he rented from John F. Starr; the shingles he manufactured were marked with the name of Starr; I never saw Mr. Twitchell until yesterday; I forwarded a notice to him by a constable, but received no answer from him.

Edwin L. Morgan affirmed--I am a member of the firm of Morgan & Orr; the prisoner is indebted to us to the amount of about $550, which was upon a note we discounted for his accommodation to pay for incidental work to his engines; this was about three months ago; he began business about May last.

Cross-examined--He bought from us an engine and boiler for $1200, which he paid for; the note of which I have spoken came due on last Friday.

William Gregg sworn--I reside at No 1102 Clinton street; I know the prisoner; in June last he applied to me for a loan of money; I think the amount was under a thousand; it was near that sum, but did not exceed it; I did not lend it.

The defense objected to this, a mere application for the loan of money, on the ground that it did not go to show a need of money; and the court instructed the jury to disregard it.

Dr. Shapleigh recalled--When I went to make a post mortem examination of the body of Mrs. Hill on Monday morning, I found her hair confined in a roll at the back by a comb, some of the teeth of which were broken; she had a woollen cap on the middle part of her head; the back hair was closely confined in a hard roll; the front hair was somewhat dishevelled; it took me some little time to take her hair down.

Cross-examined--I do not recollect having seen beads on the cap; it was over some of these wounds; she had a considerable quantity of hair, and a very thick skull and heavy woollen cap; it was the ordinary kind of woollen cap worn by ladies.

In answer to a question by the Court--I do not recollect how the cap was fastened; I don't think I untied any strings; it was bloody but not cut; these wounds could have been inflicted without severing the cap any more than the hair; it, like the hair, would of course offer some resistance, yet it would allow the impulse of the blow upon the skull.

Examined by the District Attorney--That indicates that the instrument with which the wounds were inflicted was a blunt instrument; the cap might have been retained by the blood without fastening.

Detective Taggert sworn--I made an examination of the prisoner's safe at his place of business in Camden.

Cross-examined--I know nothing of the ownership of this safe, except the key that was furnished me, and the balance from hearsay.

Mr. Warnock recalled--By the direction of the District Attorney I went for Mr. John F. Starr, and he refused to attend. He resides in Camden.

(Proof was made of the service of subpœna upon Chief Lamon, and his non-attendance, and an attachment was issued for him.)

Here a recess was taken until 2 o'clock.

QUARTER SESSIONS--Judge Peirce.--This court was occupied with petty criminal cases this morning.

COMMON PLEAS--Judge Allison.--This court devoted the morning to road cases.

NISI PRIUS.--Justice Agnew.--James Stewart vs. Thomas Holloway, an action for damages for malicious prosecution. Verdict for plaintiff for $10.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT--Judge Cadwalader.--Steamtug General George Meade vs. steamers William T. Sherman and Hamlopsa. The libellant alleged that in November, they, the defendants, while towing a fleet of barges around Point Breeze, on the Schuylkill river, steered so negligently as to collide with and damage the General Meade. The defense alleged that the collision was caused by the negligence of the libellant, as the respondents had the right of way. The case is being argued.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

OFFICE OF THE EVENING TELEGRAPH,
Thursday, Dec. 24 1868.

The rates for money continue as last quoted. As usual on the holidays, trade is excessively dull, and the general markets quite devoid of interest. The recurrence of a sharp pressure in the Money market has an embarrassing effect in commercial circles, and cash buyers in many instances have advantages that do not often occur, as many firms are necessitated to realize in order to raise the wherewithal to meet maturing obligations. Business firms, unless they have influential bank connections, find it difficult to negotiate loans without submitting to heavy shaves, and the difficulty is not likely to sensibly abate till the quarter day statements of the national banks are passed over, in which event it will not be surprising if extensions should be called for by parties who already find themselves in embarrassed circumstances.

The business in stocks to-day was extremely light. Government bonds closed dull and weak at the following figures:--Registered, 1881, 108¾ al09¼; coupon, 1881, 114a114¼; 5 20 registered, 1862, 105a105½; 5-20 coupon, 1862, 110a110¼; 5-20 coupon, 1864, 106¼a106¾; 5-20 registered, 1864, 105a105¼; 5-20 coupon, 1865 107a107¼; 5-20 registered, 1864, 105a105¾; 5-20 coupon, 1865 January and July, 109¾a110; 5-20 coupon, 1867, 109¾a110; 5-20 coupon, 1868, 110¼a110¾; 10 40 registered, 102¼a103; 10-40 coupon, 105¼a105¾.

In Railroad shares the only activity was in Reading, which sold up to 48¾, an advance of ¼. Bank, Canal, and Passenger Railway shares were without essential change.

PHILADELPHIA STOCK EXCHANGE SALES TO-DAY

Reported by De Haven & Bro., No. 40 S. Third street

FIRST BOARD.

$600 Pa 6s W Lcp	101¼	200 ah Reading	48⅜
$1000 Leh 6s, gold	87½	100 do	48⅝
$3000 do	87	100 do	48⅝
15 sh Com'l Bk	57	100 do	48 81
36 sh Leh V R	55¾	300 sh St Nich Coal	1

--This morning's gold quotations, reported by Narr & Ladner, No. 30 South Third Street:--

10·00 A. M.	135¼	12·05 P. M.	135¾
10·10 "	135¼	12·25 "	135¾
11·00 "	135¾	12 30 "	135¾

--Messrs. De Haven & Brother, No. 40 South Third street, report the following rates of exchange to-day at 1 P. M.:--U. S. 6s of 1881, 113¾ @114¼; do. 1862, 110¼@110¾; do., 1864, 106¼@ 106¾; do., 1865, 107@107¼; do., 1865, new, 109¾@ 109¾; do., 1867, new, 109¾@110; do., 1868, 110 @110¼; do., 5s, 10-40s, 105@105¾. Due Compound Interest Notes, 19¼; Gold, 134¼@134¾. Silver, 130¼@132.

--Messrs. William Painter & Co., bankers, No. 36 South Third Street, report the following rates of exchange to-day at 12 o'clock:--United States 6s, 1881, 114¼@114¾; U. S. 5-20s, 1862, 109¾@110¼; do. 1864, 106¼@106¾; do., 1865, 107@107¼; do. July, 1865, 109¾@109¾; do. July, 1867, 109¾@110; 1868, 110¼@110¾; 10-40s, 104¾@ 105¼. Compound Interest Notes, past due, 19·25. Gold, 134¼@134¾.

--Messrs. Jay Cooke & Co. quote Government securities, etc., as follows:--U. S. 6s of 1881, 114@114¼; old 5-20s, do., 110@110¼; new 5-20s, 1864, 106¼@106¾; do., 1865, 107@107¼; 5-20s, July, 1865, 109¾@110; do., 1867, 109¾@110¼; do, 1868, 110@110¼; 10-40s, 105@105¼. Gold, 134¼.

The Proposed New Minor Coinage.

WE herewith present electrotype impressions of the new series of nickel-copper coin proposed to be issued in the place of those at present in use. We cannot of course give the bright silvery appearance in our impressions which characterizes

the coins, and which adds so much to their beauty, nor is it possible by the process we have been compelled to employ to do justice to the very fine artistic workmanship displayed on the coins. The great beauty of this series of minor

coins is its uniformity and simplicity. On the *obverse* of all the pieces is a head of Liberty, upon which is inscribed the word "Liberty." On the *reverse* is an olive wreath, as an emblem of the peace this country enjoys at home and

with all nations. In the centre of this wreath the Roman numerals I, III, and V stand out boldly, indicating the denomination of the different coins. For a more extended notice of this new and beautiful series of minor coins, we refer our readers to our editorial columns.

--The Marchioness of Hastings mourns on $25,000 a year.

Evening Telegraph

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON

(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED),

AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING,

NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET.

Price, Three Cents per Copy (Double Sheet), or Eighteen Cents per Week, payable to the Carrier, and Mailed to Subscribers out of the city at Nine Dollars per Annum. One Dollar and Fifty Cents for Two Months, invariably in advance for the period ordered.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1868.

☞ *The contents of to-day's issue, presenting a rare Christmas treat, are as follows:—*

Page 1 (*Supplement*).—*An original Christmas article, descriptive, discursive, and historical.*

Page 2 (*Supplement*).—*Conclusion of Christmas article.*

Page 5.—*The latest news by telegraph and mail; legal, financial, commercial, and shipping intelligence.*

Page 6.—*Editorials on the leading questions of the hour.*

Page 7.—*Proceedings of City Councils yesterday; General Spinner's letter on the finances; general news summary, local, domestic, and foreign.*

Page 10.—*A new Christmas poem entitled "The Mistletoe Kiss;" a new Christmas story entitled "Laying the Ghost."*

Page 11.—*Editorial selections from the leading journals of the country.*

Page 12.—*City Intelligence; afternoon telegrams.*

☞ In common with the rest of mankind, we desire to eat our Christmas turkey in peace to-morrow. For that reason, and in accordance with our general custom, there will be no issue of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH to-morrow afternoon.

Christmas.

IT is a pleasant thought for members of one family to know that, although separated by distance, they are all rejoicing together in spirit over a common cause of thanksgiving. When a nation composed of millions of people rejoices at the same time over an event in which all take an interest, it is a grand thought. But it is sublime when we know, over all the world, wherever the faith of Christianity has a follower, there are songs of praise going up to Heaven for "peace on earth and good-will towards men." Such will be the sight presented to-morrow. Millions upon millions of human hearts are happy over this commemoration of the foundation of our faith, and we can only wish that each of our readers may be amongst those to whom unalloyed pleasure comes at this, our Christmas season.

As an evidence of the joyous feeling so prevalent, gifts are interchanged in commemoration of the occasion. Families, relatives, and friends interchange these *souvenirs*, and even municipalities have their Christmas presents. The city of Philadelphia yesterday was the recipient of a testimonial from the Misses George which is worthy of the magnificence of Philadelphia and the generosity of the donors. These ladies gave the city eighty-three acres adjoining Fairmount Park, known as "George's Hill." When all, even corporations without souls, are thus receiving testimonials, it seems natural to wish all a "Merry Christmas."

A Uniform Minor Coinage.

SOME months since we directed the attention of our readers to a bill introduced into Congress, having for its object the homogeneity and general improvement of the character of our token coins. Since then Judge Kelley, as Chairman of the Committee on Coinage, has amended and perfected, with much care, the bill, so that we have no doubt it will meet the approval of Congress and the country. A hasty examination into the subject of our token coins presents the very remarkable fact that within the past twelve years the Mint has issued by authority of law no less than three varieties of one-cent pieces, composed respectively of pure copper—88 per cent. copper and 12 per cent. nickel—and the present issue, composed of copper, zinc, and tin. Of the various devices that have distinguished these coins of various alloys, weights, and diameters, all representing one cent, we will attempt no statement, for fear we might be charged with exaggeration. The issue of the two-cent bronze piece always appeared to us as an anomaly. So far as our observation goes, it is of about as much practical use in a system of minor coins as was the philosopher's "small hole in his barn for the small cat, after having cut a large hole for the large cat."

Our token coinage at present in circulation presents as complete a medley as can readily be imagined. Were it not for the devices upon them, one might be easily led to suppose they were issued by different countries, having no commercial relation with each other. No attempt at uniformity in alloy or proportion in weight or diameter seems to have been contemplated by those having the matter in hand at various times. It may, with some justice, be urged that those having charge of this important subject ten years since had no well-established experiments in the matter of nickel-copper alloy by which to be enlightened as to its superior advantages over all other alloys for a minor coinage, and, in truth, it may be said that within the last ten years the improvements in the manufacture of nickel have gone a great way towards making it available for a coinage of rich nickel alloy, such as is now proposed.

Yet after admitting all this, it does not, in our judgment, form a sufficient excuse for those latter issues of the one and two-cent bronze pieces which introduced a new alloy into our minor coins, and assisted very materially to produce the present deplorable confusion. All that we have said in condemnation of the want of character in the token coins now in circulation is fully admitted on all sides, but some of our contemporaries, whilst admitting it, have asked, "Will not the proposed new coinage only increase the confusion?"

We think a careful scrutiny of the law will convince to the contrary.

In the first place, the proposed law prevents the further coinage of the three and five-cent silver coins and the one and two-cent bronze pieces, and authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, under such regulations as he may establish, to withdraw from circulation all token coins heretofore issued. The law also repeals the authority for the issue of the ten cent note, which is one step toward specie payments. It also contains a provision for the redemption of the new coins in United States notes, thus presenting a guarantee against a redundant issue. We therefore start out in the work of presenting a "uniform token coinage," with the coast, if not entirely clear, at least in the way of being so very shortly. Authority being granted for the withdrawal of the old issues and the substitution of a convenient, simple, and beautiful coinage to take its place, it will no be very long before the coinage now in use will have passed as completely out of circulation as have the Spanish fractions of the dollar under the act of February, 1857, or the old copper cent under the same law. The first step taken by Judge Kelley in the proposed change of our token coinage exhibits those practical qualities of mind that so eminently distinguish him as a legislator. He starts out by establishing a system, very simple, yet complete, the want of which was the great evil in our past legislation on this subject. The *first* proposition laid down is that there must be uniformity of material. *Secondly*. As near a proportion in weight and diameter as may be practically possible. It is scarcely necessary to discuss the very evident advantages resulting from the adoption of these two propositions. As to the *first*, not only will all admit that a uniformity of alloy is very desirable as a public convenience, but, aside from this, the Mint experience has demonstrated the almost numberless embarrassments that arise from the use of two different alloys in our base coinage; while as to the *second*, there is not only an evident theoretical propriety in having our minor coins observe—just as our precious coins invariably do—a proportion of weights corresponding as nearly as possible to the denominational values, but the beauty of the series and the convenience of the people alike render this essentially requisite. These requirements are fully met by the series of coins under consideration.

We are enabled to say this after having carefully examined a set handed us by the politeness of an officer of the Mint, electrotyped impressions of which will be found in our money article of to-day. No difficulty can arise in distinguishing the denomination of the pieces. Even in the dark no confusion could arise, for they can be readily identified by the touch. In point of design and execution these coins are exceedingly creditable, far excelling in beauty those of Belgium, of the same alloy. And here we may observe that the experience of our own and other countries has, within the past eight or ten years, established the undoubted superiority of nickel copper alloy over all others for a subsidiary coinage. When nickel is combined with copper in the proportion of 1 to 3, as in the proposed coinage it presents a beautiful alloy, that preserves its color, and has never yet been successfully counterfeited, which is a quality not lightly to be esteemed. For the information of those of our readers who may not have read our former remarks upon this subject, we would state that the weight of the new coins will be respectively, viz.:—Five-cent piece, 5 grams, or about 77 grains; the three-cent piece, 3 grams, or about 46 grains; the one-cent piece, 1½ grams, or about 23 grains. In diameter the five-cent piece will be 22 millimetres, the three-cent piece 19 millimetres, and the one-cent piece 16 millimetres.

The proportion in weight is departed from in the one-cent coin, as a 1 gram piece would have presented difficulties in coinage that it was deemed best to avoid by increasing the weight to 1½ grams.

From whatever point of view this proposed new coinage is considered, we think it will be found to be alike creditable to the Chairman of the Committee on Coinage and to the Mint authorities; and we have no hesitation in saying, in conclusion, that when the people come to handle it in their everyday business they will pronounce it the most convenient, as it will undoubtedly be the most beautiful, series of token coins ever issued by the authority of our own or any other government.

League Island, Alaska, and the Lobby Business.

THE old and well-known firm of Weed, Seward & Co. still remains intact, despite all the vicissitudes of the political business, although the public are just at present laboring under an uncertainty as to whether A. Johnson, or R. Johnson, or some other "party by the name of Johnson," constitutes the "Co." part of the concern. We are glad to learn, however, that Mr. Weed, better known perhaps as "T. W.," has been permitted by the state of his health to resume his place as the active head of the firm. This he does in a short, sharp, and sarcastic paragraph, in which he begs certain Republican papers "not to make themselves any more ridiculous than they can help" by occasionally referring to Mr. Seward's famous purchase of $7,200,000 worth of "icebergs, polar bears, and sterile mountains." "T. W." regards this course on the part of certain Republican papers as eminently ridiculous, for the reason that a Republican Senate ratified the purchase, and a Republican House of Representatives appropriated the money required to consummate it.

But the very fact that a Republican House of Representatives did make the appropriation is one of the chief causes of complaint of certain Republican journals. Not that we were opposed to the appropriation of the $7,200,000 by the House, for, as we have repeatedly argued, there was no alternative after the Senate had once determined to set Mr. Seward up in the ice business. But during the past month the telegraph wires leading from Washington have been loaded with certain ugly-looking rumors as to the manner in which the House was persuaded to make the appropriation in question. Mr. Seward has declared that, for himself, he knows nothing about the truth or falsity of these rumors, and we are bound to believe him, for we cannot be convinced that a statesman who devotes a whole volume of diplomatic buncombe to the statement of a fact which could be readily embraced in half a dozen lines, would waste enough of his invaluable time to give currency to anything that verged upon falsehood. Yet Mr. Seward took the initiative step which led to our acquisition of the icebergs and polar bears and to all the ugly rumors about the manner in which they were acquired, and this fact can not but recall to our minds the circumstance that the investment was about as unsatisfactory as was that of the man who took a chance in an Oriental lottery and drew a white elephant as a prize. Indeed, the family resemblance between the white elephant and the polar bear is so striking that we are inclined to get at loggerheads with the naturalists by regarding them as merely different species of the same genus of quadrupeds. Therefore we greatly fear that the head of the firm of Weed, Seward & Co. will have his equanimity disturbed by these ridiculous Republican journals, whenever the icebergs and the polar bears creep into print on any pretense whatever.

But we wish more especially to note, in this connection, the circumstance that, in the same number of Mr. Weed's paper, the New York *Commercial Advertiser*, we find "The Philadelphia Lobby" paraded in startling head-lines, in conjunction with "The League Island Project." The special Washington despatch over which these clap-trap lines are displayed merely refers to the visit of Mayor McMichael and a delegation of the City Council of Philadelphia to Washington for the purpose of presenting the title-deeds to League Island to the Government. The insinuation that the gift of League Island to the United States by the city of Philadelphia was a "lobby" project is about as reckless an insinuation as could be made. Believing that the site was, in all respects, the most desirable on the Atlantic coast for the purposes of a great iron-clad naval station, the city of Philadelphia procured a clear and unincumbered title to the island and its surroundings, at an enormous expense, and offered it to the Government as a free gift. The Government hesitated long before accepting the proffer. All the competing sites were examined by disinterested commissions appointed by the Navy Department for the purpose, and so overwhelming was the evidence in favor of the eligibility and economy of League Island, that Secretary Welles, a Connecticut man, who is naturally supposed to favor, to a reasonable extent at least, the interests of his own State, was forced to throw his influence into the scale in favor of its selection, as opposed to the New London site, and all the other projected sites. In this view of the case, the lobby insinuation appears extremely weak; and when it is remembered that the favorable action of the Senate in the matter was notoriously the result of the advocacy of Senators Grimes of Iowa and Hendricks of Indiana, it grows almost too weak for notice at our hands.

Both League Island and Alaska are the property of the United States, and she must make the best of her bargains in both cases. To what earthly use the latter can be put we cannot imagine, unless it may be made to serve as a summer resort for Mr. Seward, Mr. Robert J. Walker, and Mr. D. C. Forney. Happily there can be raised no such perplexing question about League Island. It is the duty of Congress to provide at once the money necessary for commencing the improvements which will be required to render its great natural advantages available. This outlay, or at least the greater portion of it, will not be a permanent one; for, as soon as the improvements are fairly under way, the old Navy Yard can be dismantled and abandoned, and the site and buildings disposed of by the Government for a handsome consideration. And the sooner the permanent improvements upon League Island are commenced by the General Government, the sooner will its outlay be refunded by the sale of the old Navy Yard and all its useless appurtenances.

A Few Hints to Actors.

IT is certain that the drama has a firmer hold on the popular taste than any other form of amusement, and that this taste, so far from dying out, is increasing every year. Many of the old-fashioned abuses, such as profanity and indecent language, which many actors of not a great many years ago were in the habit of indulging, have been pretty generally reformed, and the result is that the prejudices entertained against the theatres have been to a great extent overcome, and the theatrical audiences of to-day represent as much refinement and culture as those of any other style of entertainment. It is a standing complaint, however, with the most intelligent theatre goers, that show pieces and so-called "sensation" dramas, which depend for their success, in a great measure, on scenic and mechanical effects, have driven the legitimate drama—by which we mean that class of plays which require skilful, intelligent, and artistic acting—into the background. The managers reply that when they present good pieces nobody goes to see them, and that they have to rely upon sensation effects to fill their houses and to keep the treasury in a flourishing condition. There is something to be said on both sides of the question, but we sincerely think that the main difficulty is with the management and actors.

If one of Shakespeare's plays is performed nowadays, the attraction is in a popular star who takes the leading *role*, while the balance are filled by men and women who evidently have no appreciation of acting as a fine art, who stumble through the scenes with the aid of the prompter, and who have no intelligent ideas about the characters they undertake to represent. Actors, too, are jealous and opinionated, and in making up the cast of a play they interfere with the stage manager in making the most effective distribution, by refusing to do anything out of the regular line of business for which they are engaged, and particularly to take any less important characters than they think their merits entitle them to. Unfortunately, the actor and the public are not always in accordance in their estimate of abilities, and the important point is lost sight of that it is better to play a small part well than a great one ill. If every actor would determine to appear to the best advantage, even if he were entrusted with no more important part than that of a lackey, to go on and make the announcement "My lord, the carriage waits," we would soon be able to see an improvement. We do occasionally see actors cast for such trifling *roles* who seem to do them as if they had original ideas, and were trying to leave a favorable impression on the minds of the audience, notwithstanding their very brief appearance on the scene. We have ever found audiences appreciative on such occasions, and we think that the performer is as much entitled to commendation as if he had the whole burden of the play on his shoulders. Unfortunately, however, such examples are comparatively rare.

In the vast majority of cases, the completeness and finish of the performance, as a whole, is a matter of the first importance; and we believe that every theatre-goer who has intelligence enough to form an opinion on the subject would rather see a play moderately well represented in all its parts, than to see one character acted in the best style and the rest botched. Think, for instance, what a treat it would be to see *Hamlet* produced with a "ghost" who did not excite derisive laughter as soon as he appeared upon the scene, and with competent actors to fill such parts as "Rosencranz" and "Guildenstern," not to speak of "Claudius," the "Queen," "Horatio," and others; or to have the noble Romans in *Julius Cæsar*, *Coriolanus*, *Virginius*, and other plays, with some faint idea about the proper manner of wearing classic robes. As we have remarked again and again, one great reason of the success of Offenbach's burlesque operas was the complete manner in which they were put upon the stage, and particularly the good taste rather than the costliness of the dresses, accessories, etc., together with the able manner in which *all* the parts were sustained.

What is wanted to make the legitimate drama pay is good taste on the part of managers, good discipline behind the scenes, which will require every member of the company to take whatever part may be assigned him or her, and for the actors to "do their level best" under every circumstance. By so doing they will most surely advance their own reputation, for real talent cannot be hid from view by casting it in minor *roles*, if the actor is resolutely determined to show what there is in him, and if he looks upon acting as an art, and respects himself as an artist, and always does justice to himself and his audiences.

Not wishing to obtain the reputation of a scold, we frequently pass over in silence some of the more confirmed and apparently hopeless specimens of inefficiency who strut and stride upon the stages of our theatres; but we throw out these general remarks about reforms that are sadly needed, with the hope that they may chance to lead to an improvement, especially with regard to the acting of standard dramas.

THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

'Twas the day before Christmas, when all through the town
Folks were hurrying up and hurrying down:
The ladies were airing their elegant faces,
And purchasing bonnets and ribbons and laces;
The silks and the satins which trailed at their feet
Were sweeping the snow and the mire of the street;
The children were asking their mothers to stop
And purchase confections at each candy shop.

A beautiful woman and excellent mother
Was trudging along in the crowd and the bother,
And wondering where upon earth she should go
For suitable presents for Sammy and Joe:
Sammy wants *this*, and Joe wants *that*—
Here's a wooden hobby-horse, there's a woolly cat;
Here's a wagon and harness—a speckled horse—
Which Sammy and Joe both want, of course.
"Ah! me!"
Says she,
"What shall I buy? Where shall I go?
For these lively critters, Sammy and Joe,
Will presently smash these gimcrack toys,
Just like other destructive boys!
I want to buy
Something that I
Can give to the boys with the hope that it'll last—
That won't smash up so awfully fast.
Oh! Ho!!
I think I'll go
And get 'em some clothes,
Such as those
That ROCKHILL & WILSON so much enjoy
Selling so cheap for each good boy.
Come, Sammy and Joe!
And don't be slow!
The clothes are so nice,
And reduced in price:
Jackets and pants and vest in a suit,
And an elegant overcoat to boot."

Presents for the Boys!
Present for the Boys' Fathers!
Elegant "*Robes de chambre*" and
Smoking Jackets for Presents
From the young ladies to their Beaux!
Price of everything reduced!
Monstrous inducements!!
Come and see how *shocking* low the prices are!!!

ROCKHILL & WILSON,
GREAT BROWN STONE HALL,
Nos. 603 and 605 CHESNUT STREET,
PHILADELPHIA.

STAMMERING CURED.—PHILIP LAWRENCE, Professor of Elocution, No. 147 N. EIGHTH Street. 12 22 6t

1826.

GREAT INDUCEMENTS—REDUCTION OF PRICES.

CRIPPEN & MADDOCK,

(Late W. L. Maddock & Co.),

NO. 115 SOUTH THIRD STREET,

BELOW CHESNUT.

Have now on hand one of the Largest and Finest Assortment of

FINE GROCERIES

Ever offered to the citizens of Philadelphia, provided expressly for the Approaching Holidays.

Our W. G. FAMILY FLOUR is the FINEST KNOWN IN AMERICA.

WHITE ALMERIA GRAPES
IN LARGE CLUSTERS.
FIFTY CENTS PER POUND.

All Goods sold to families in unbroken packages at wholesale price, and delivered free of charge.

DEALERS IN AND IMPORTERS OF FINE GROCERIES.

DRY GOODS.

JOHN BURNS,

No. 247 SOUTH ELEVENTH STREET,

ABOVE SPRUCE.

HOLIDAY AND WEDDING PRESENTS.

One Invoice of those beautiful Satin Damask Table Cloths, in rich designs, 2½, 3, 3½, 4, and 4½ yards long, the cheapest ever offered in the city.
Loom Table Linen, 1¼ yds. wide, 50 62½c. 75c. to $1.
Fine Bleached Table Damask, 1½ yds. wide, 75c.
2 yds. wide fine Bleached Table Damask, 87½c.
8-4 Turkey Red Table Damask, best make, $1·65.
All-linen Towels, 10, 12½, 16, 18, 25, 25c.
Beautiful Damask Towels, $1, 87½, 50, 75, and up.
Barnsley Linen Towels, red and blue damask borders; bargains.
Splendid Damask Napkins, only $1·50 per dozen.

HDKFS. HDKFS. HDKFS.

All-linen Hdkfs, 6¼, 10, 12½, 20 to 60c.
Ladies' and Gents' Hemstitched Hdkfs., bargains.
Plain Embroidered Colored and Mourning Bordered Hdkfs.

HOSIERY. HOSIERY. HOSIERY.

Cartwright & Warner's Ladies' and Gents' Merino Underwear.
Gents' Merino Shirts 50 75c. $1, $1·25, to the finest.
Ladies' Merino Vests, 87½, $1, $1·10, $1·25, $3.
Ladies' silk embroidered genuine Balbriggan hose, all sizes, 87½c. 12 21 3t
Boys' and Misses' Merino Underwear.
Best imported heavy English half hose, 37½c.

BLANKETS AND FLANNELS.

All wool Blankets, from $3 to $20 per pair.
All wool Flannels, 25, 35, 45, 50c., to $1·25.
Yard wide Ballardvale and Shaker Flannel, 30c.
Canton Flannels in every grade, 12½ to 40c.

BLANKETS AND QUILTS.

STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER,

CENTRAL DRY GOODS STORE,

Corner EIGHTH and MARKET,

PHILADELPHIA.

HURON BLANKETS.

We still have a full supply of the celebrated HURON BLANKETS, which have heretofore had such unprecedented sale.

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NEWS SUMMARY.

City Affairs.

—A meeting to consider matters pertaining to the missionary work of the American Sunday School Union was held on Tuesday evening in the chapel of the Arch Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Broad and Arch streets. Addresses were made by Rev. Dr. Stryker, Rev. Herrick Johnson, Rev. B. W. Chidlaw, Rev. William P. Paxson, Alexander Whilden and others. In the last year the missionaries organized 1731 new schools, with 19,667 teachers and 70,972 scholars. They also organized and aided 8331 schools, with 60,000 teachers and 468,900 scholars. Distributed 9082 copies of the Scriptures. The missionaries have recently established repositories for the sale of the society's books in St. Louis and Chicago, and have aimed to scatter the Gospel broadcast over the South and West, and from thence to the Pacific coast. The treasurer's report showed the contributions of the last year to missionary work were $98,505 43, and that the expenditures amounted to $117,986 89, leaving an indebtedness of $29,587 19.

—The annual meeting of the Kensington Soup Society took place recently at the soup house, Allen street, near Marlborough, George Stockham, president, in the chair, Charles M. Lukens, secretary. The treasurer, George Hamilton, reported the receipts of the season at $2139 04, and the disbursements at $2154, leaving a balance of $149. The managers receive annually from the rent of the soup house property the sum of $256. The secretary reported a distribution during the past season of 1000 gallons of soup and 1950 loaves of bread weekly, to about 350 families. The meeting then elected a Board of Managers.

—The Garment Cutters held a public meeting last evening, at the hall of the German Garment Cutters' Association, Fourth street, below Callowhill—Joseph S. Kennedy, Chairman; R. C. McCauley, Secretary. A resolution was offered, fixing the wages of garment cutters at $4 per day, to go into effect on the 1st of January, 1869. An amendment was offered by which the wages of six-day garment cutters should be $20 per week, and five-day men $18 per week. The resolution as amended was adopted, and the meeting adjourned.

—The French Benevolent Society, organized in 1793, now numbers 222 members and during the past year $1883 18 was distributed to deserving poor. The following gentlemen have been elected officers for the ensuing year:—President, M. Bouvier; Vice-President, H. A. Fintard; Treasurer, M. V. Dry; Secretary, H. Tirel.

—The Republican members of Common Council met in caucus yesterday and nominated Alexander J. Harper and William R. Leeds as Trustees of the Philadelphia Gas Works.

—The old Manayunk Station House and lot of ground were sold yesterday by the city, for the sum of $2725. The lease of the tobacco warehouse was sold for $3200 per annum.

—John Horn, 35 years old, a resident at the City Hotel, fell dead yesterday at Crown and Vine streets, supposed to be from disease of the heart.

Domestic Affairs.

—Gold closed yesterday at 134⅜.

—Chief Justice Chase left Washington last night for Rhode Island.

—A movement is on foot to have the Court of Claims abolished.

—Many of Sheridan's soldiers have suffered severely from the cold.

—General Butler is preparing an elaborate defense of his financial theory.

—Ex-President Roberts, of Liberia, has become a permanent resident of Washington, D. C.

—Ex-Minister Washburn and James Watson Webb arrived at New York, from South America, yesterday.

—The Congressional Appropriation Committee is holding daily sessions, holiday recess to the contrary notwithstanding.

—Ex-Governor Letcher, Guerrilla Mosby, and other non-carpet-bagging but eminent Virginians, are in Washington on business with A. J.

—Secretary Seward left Washington yesterday for Auburn. He was accompanied by the British and French Ministers, who will be his guests during the holidays.

Foreign Affairs.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The report of a proposed conference on the Eastern question is fully confirmed. The Vienna *Presse*, the Government organ, says semi-officially that the plan originated with Russia, backed by Prussia, and that the scheme is favored by Austria and Italy. The effort to settle the question without bloodshed will undoubtedly be successful.

MADRID, Dec. 23.—The country is entirely tranquil. The Government proposes to make material changes in the colonial magistracy.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—Senor Olozaga was to-day officially received by the Emperor as Ambassador from Spain.

Carlist disturbances have occurred in Navarre, and fourteen persons have been arrested for participation in them.

The *Moniteur* of to-day, in a leading editorial, says the active movements of the great powers give a hope that diplomacy, by the exercise of moderation, will allay the Eastern troubles.

The public newspapers say Russia approves the proposition of Prussia to invite England, France, and Austria to a conference on the Turko Greek question.

PARIS, Dec. 23 —The *Moniteur* has late Paraguayan advices, which say that the position of Lopez is critical, in consequence of his differences with the United States, and that he will probably seek a reconciliation with the American Government. The *Moniteur* also states that Paraguay continues to make energetic resistance to the movements of the allied army.

ATHENS, Dec. 22.—The Government has asked of the Chambers a credit of one hundred million drachms. The ports of Paros and Patras are to be fortified.

ATHENS, Dec. 23.—The Ministry are still engaged in the discussion of means of defense of the country, but no formal steps have yet been taken in that direction.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—The *Provincial Correspondente*, semi-official newspaper, says the great powers have united in an edort to dissuade the Sublime Porte from expelling the Greeks from Turkey. The intended expulsion includes those in Servia and Roumania.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 23.—It is semi-officially announced that the Turkish Admiral, Hobart Pasha, informed the authorities in the island of Syra that his instructions from Constantinople are peaceful, and he had only asked that the Erosis should be taken to the Piraeus by French and Austrian steamers, to await a trial by Greek naval officers.

HAVANA, Dec. 23.—The steamer Montezuma, which left Neuvitas on the 16th inst., has arrived, with eighty sick and wounded soldiers and thirteen prisoners. She brings intelligence that 4000 troops and ten pieces of artillery had started by various routes to attack the town of Bayamo. Neuvitas and Puerto Principe are still in communication.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The *Morning Telegraph* of to day prints a despatch from Berlin, announcing that Prussia has called a conference of the great powers of Europe to settle peaceably the questions at issue betwen Turkey and Greece.

George Hadfield, M. P. for Sheffield, and Mr. Bazley, M. P. for Manchester, have presented a memorial to Reverdy Johnson, requesting him to urge the American Government to adopt a system of penny postage between the United States and Great Britain. The *Times* prints the memorial to-day and comments favorably on it.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Some of the

Georgia Members

are not at all satisfied with the efforts of Governor Bullock and other leading radicals of that State to have the present State government set aside. Should the Reconstruction Committee so decide, and the House and Senate sustain them therein, it is feared that both the Georgia Senators and members will be thrown out.

Nelson Tift,

one of the Georgia Congressmen, has written a circular addressed to prominent officers in the State, asking for replies to the following questions:—

Are the laws of Congress faithfully administered? Is there any organized or unorganized resistance to law? Are the officers of the law faithful to their duties? What is the disposition, feeling, and treatment of the white people?—what towards towards the Republicans, what towards the Northern men visiting or desiring to settle in Georgia? Do people desire peace and restoration to the Union? Is there, in your opinion, any necessity or justification for the proposed destruction of the present government of Georgia, and the establishment of a military or provisional government? Tift want to get testimony to place before the committee which will in some sense be a reply to the accusations brought against the present State government by Governor Bullock and his friends.

The President's Recent Nominations.

There is a strong feeling in the Senate against confirming any more of Johnson's appointments, and it is said that an understanding exists among the Republican Senators that no further confirmations will be made until after the 4th of March. This will apply to those now before the Senate as well as to any that may come hereafter.

The Report

of the Board appointed to examine into and report upon certain contracts made by the Patent Office for stationery and printing will soon be laid before the Secretary of the Interior, and will show some

Astounding Frauds.

In one contract alone, for envelopes, it is alleged that the Government was cheated out $50,000, through the connivance of the officers in the Pension Bureau with the contractors.

Murder of Customs Inspectors.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Secretary McCulloch today received a despatch from the Collector at Brownsville, Texas, dated December 22, stating that two inspectors of customs had been murdered in that district by a gang of robbers, and that another inspector was badly wounded. The killed are George F. Hammond and William H. Phillips, and the wounded man is Robert H. Ryan. No further particulars are given.

Another Prize Fight.

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 23.—The great prize fight for the championship between Hicken and Maguire came off this morning at an early hour. Five rounds were well contested. On the last Hicken, by a terrible blow, broke Maguire's jaw-bone, and the fight was declared in Hicken's favor.

CITY COUNCILS.

Their Proceedings Yesterday.

Both branches of City Councils held a meeting yesterday afternoon.

Select Branch.—W. S. Stokley, Esq., in the chair.

A communication was received from the Mayor, announcing that the title of League island had been transferred to the United States government.

The cash account of the City Treasurer was reported as follows: Cash balance on hand November 1, 1868, $838,541 37; cash received during the month, $384,324 48. Total, $1,222,866 05. Payments during the month, $350,800 46, leaving a balance of $872,065 59, which was appropriated as follows: For interest on city loan, $610,000; for sinking fund securities, $113,773 03, and for warrants, sundry claims, &c., $148,292 56.

A resolution was passed directing the Chief Commissioner of Highways to employ men to clean the dirt from the front of the sewer inlets and charge the same to the account of the contractors for street cleaning.

A report from the Committee on Girard Estates, directing the City Solicitor to allow judgment to be entered in favor of John Gilbert and others, was adopted.

Common Council bill appropriating $1492 for militia enrollment was concurred in.

The county prison appropriation bill of $133,904 for 1869 was concurred in.

That to the department of Receiver of Taxes of $36,600 was also passed.

Thanks were tendered to Jesse and Rebecca George, for the gift of certain lands in West Philadelphia to be attached to Fairmount Park.

The gas loan of $1,000,000 was called up and postponed for the present. The appropriation of $17,100 to the City Treasurer for 1869 was increased $1000.

The Park loan of $4,000,000 was adopted by a vote of 20 yeas and 6 nays.

The loan of $1,640,000, for the extension of the Water-works, the purchase of League island, and the payment for the City Ice Boat, was passed by a vote of 23 yeas and 2 nays.

The Gas-works loan of $1,000,000 was also adopted by a vote of 26 yeas and 1 nay.

Messrs. Smith, Shermer and Marcus were constituted a committee to report upon the necessity for a morgue.

The ordinance appropriating $2,000,000 for paying for land purchases and land damages for the purpose of the Park was indefinitely postponed.

The park commission were notified that Councils were ready to appropriate the amounts necessary for the purchase of land for park purposes.

Adjourned.

Common Branch.—President Joseph F. Marcer in the chair.

The following communication was presented by the President and read:

To the Select and Common Councils of the city of Philadelphia: The Fairmount Park Commissioners respectfully represent that the commission have obtained from Jesse George and his sister, Rebecca George, a grant to the city of Philadelphia, of that elevated tract of land known as "George's Hills," with house and barn, within the boundaries of the Park, containing eighty-three acres of land, reserving annual sums or rents, together five thousand dollars, payable half-yearly, and the first half-yearly payment to be made on the first day of July next. The annual sum is less than the interest of the actual value of the land, if we leave out of view the advantage the Park will be to the other lands of the grantors; and on the decease of Jesse George these annual payments by the city are to cease.

The commission consider this a dedication of great value to the city, constituting, as it will, one of the most beautiful features of the park, overlooking the city, the rivers and a large extent of our State and New Jersey. They also consider the terms of the grant as very liberal, charitable and public spirited on the part of Jesse George and his sister, and believe that the City Councils and citizens of Philadelphia will gratefully appreciate their beneficence. The commission respectfully pray that Councils will accept the grant and make therefor due acknowledgment.

MORTON MCMICHAEL, President.

In connection therewith Mr. Wagner offered an ordinance providing for the acceptance of the grant on the terms offered. Agreed to.

Mr. Wagner offered a resolution of thanks to Jesse George and Rebecca George for their liberality in granting to the city the use of the land above referred to. Agreed to.

A message was received from his Honor the Mayor reporting the formal transfer of the League Island property to the United States.

Mr. Barnsley offered an ordinance providing that an ordinance recently passed prohibiting the digging up of the streets during the winter months shall not be understood to prohibit necessary repairs to gas mains, water pipes, &c. Passed.

A resolution was offered authorizing the Chestnut Street Skating Rink Association to set back the curbstone on Chestnut street, between Twenty-third and Twenty-first streets. Referred to Committee on Highways.

The Chamber then resumed the consideration of the bill offered by Mr. Evans, prohibiting the sale of turpentine, naphtha, benzine or benzole between the hours of sunset and sunrise, and also any approach within twenty feet of such oils with artificial lights between the same hours.

Mr. Evans moved to amend so as to prohibit merely any approach to such oils with artificial light, for any purpose, between the hours of sunset and sunrise. Referred back to the Common Council Committee on Law—yeas 23, nays 14.

At four o'clock the Chamber took up the ordinance concerning the site for a new House of Correction. Several gentlemen opposed the bill on the ground that the proposed site is situated without the county of Philadelphia, and that a portion of the tract was swampy. A motion to indefinitely postpone produced a long discussion, when the motion was withdrawn, and an amendment was offered embodying a proviso that the Legislature shall annex the tract to the county of Philadelphia, and any portion lying between the tract and said county. An amendment to the amendment was passed adding the words: Before any contract shall be entered into for the purchase of the land. The amendment was then agreed to. The ordinance as amended authorizes the City Solicitor to examine the title to the four contiguous tracts of land on Long Hook and Tinicum Islands, in Delaware county, and if they be found satisfactory, to have the same conveyed to the city of Philadelphia, the consideration therefor to be the sum of $28,000 upon the delivery of the deed, and the annual ground rent of $3000 to be charged thereon; with the proviso that the Legislature shall annex the tract and the land lying between it and the county of Philadelphia, to said county, before any contract shall be entered into for the purchase of the land.

The second section provides for carrying these provisions into effect. The ordinance then finally passed—yeas 24, nays 15. A motion to reconsider was then laid upon the table.

The Common Council bill authorizing a loan for an extension of the Gas-works, concurred in by Select Council, with an amendment changing the disposition of sundry items, was postponed for the present.

The Chamber then took up on second reading the ordinance to make an appropriation to the Department for Supplying the City with Water for the year 1869, and went into Committee of the Whole for the purpose of general amendment. The committee rose, and the bill was agreed to without amendment.

The ordinance to make an appropriation to the Department of Surveys for the year 1869 was then taken up.

The Chamber went into committee of the whole, and an amendment was adopted adding an item, No. 21, of $2000 for the salary of an engineer.

The committee rose and the bill passed.

The Chamber then considered in committee of the whole an ordinance making an appropriation to the Department of Highways, Bridges, Sewers, &c., for the year 1869.

The bill was reported back with an additional item of $500 for repairing the Welsh road.

The report of the committee was adopted.

The Gas loan bill was then taken up again, and the amendments of Select Council concurred in.

Mr. Bardsley moved to amend item 6 of the appropriation bill under consideration, by substituting $50,000 for $30,000. Agreed to.

The bill then passed.

Mr. Harrison, from the Committee on Finance, reported an ordinance to authorize a temporary loan to meet the current demands of the City Treasury. Passed—yeas 34, nays 0.

An ordinance to make an appropriation to pay for records, books, stationery, etc., for the office of the Supreme Court, was passed.

Several Common Council bills, concurred in by Select Council with slight amendments, were considered, and the amendments agreed to.

The ordinance to make an appropriation to the clerks of Councils for the year 1869 was then taken up and considered in committee of the whole, reported back without amendment, and then passed.

The ordinance to make an appropriation to the City Commissioners for the expenses of the year 1869 was then taken up and considered in committee of the whole.

The bill was reported back with sundry amendments, which were agreed to, and the bill then passed. Adjourned.

THE HILL HOMICIDE.

The following is the continuation of the evidence in the Hill homicide case, as elicited yesterday:—

At three o'clock the Court met and proceeded to pass upon the objection made by the defence, Judge Brewster saying that it was irregular at this stage of the proceedings to inquire into the contents of the deed, but it was competent to prove by the witness that he did not communicate the changing of the name, as he appeared to be the agent for the prisoner in that alteration.

Mr. Hagert here offered in evidence the deed from Elizabeth Hoge and others, Thos. Williamson trustee of Elizabeth Pleasanton, and the said Elizabeth Pleasanton to Camilla E. Twitchell, dated March 15, 1868, recorded on the 20th of the same month.

Mr. Gilbert resumed—I had never conversed or corresponded with Mrs. Hill on this subject from the time the agreement was completed to July, 1868. In July, 1868, I had an interview with her at my house; Mr. Henderson accompanied her to my house.

Question by Mr. Hagert—What occurred at that interview?

Judge Ludlow—Was the prisoner there?

Witness—No, sir.

Mr. Mann—We object, sir.

The objection was sustained.

Mr. Hagert—Did you ever have conversation with Mr. Twitchell about this property?

Witness—Yes, sir; he spoke of making two stores on Pine street and a private entrance on Pine street, and use the rest of it for a private dwelling; he spoke of this more than once; Mrs. Twitchell, in the presence of her husband, deposited with me a will for safe keeping.

Mr. Mann—We object to this; we do not object to going into the whole history of this family if it referred to this case, but this does not.

Mr. Hagert—I propose to show that she made a will in favor of her husband. The will is in the possession of the defence, and I call for it.

Mr. Mann—You shall have it freely.

The instrument was then produced.

Witness—This is the will; I received it about the time it was dated—October 10, 1863; I returned it to Mr. Twitchell after the interview I have spoken of with Mrs. Hill and Mr. Henderson; I gave it back because Mrs. Hill had come to my house with Mr. Henderson, and wanted to know how that deed came to be in her daughter's name.

Mr. Mann asked to have this latter sentence struck out, on the ground that it was not evidence.

The Court so ordered.

Mr. Hagert—Did you surrender the will at the motion of Mr. Twitchell?

Objected to by Mr. Mann, because it had no connection that he could see with the murder, and on the ground that the question was in improper form.

The objection was sustained on the latter ground.

Mr. Hagert—Did you surrender this will at his own request? Answer yes or no.

Witness—I did.

Mr. Hagert—Did you ever have any conversation with him about Mrs. Hill's life, whether it would be long or short?

Witness—A short time after I sold the house to him he came to my office and said that the old woman had put a large silver plate upon the door, and wanted to know what he should do about it; I told him to let it alone; at another time he said to me, "I have had a terrible time with the old lady; she accuses me of robbing her;" I told him to leave there; these conversations occurred several times; I cautioned him, and told him I did not think such remarks prudent, he came into my office another day and said that a good thing might be made by buying in the interests of the old lady's heirs, for they could be bought for one-third or one half at the extreme, and the old lady would not live long; on the other hand, he would sometimes argue that she would last long; when he would speak of his troubles with her I told him he had better submit to them and look forward to the inheritance of her estate; he manifested feeling at these interviews; I tried to suppress it; sometimes he would call her a bitch, and other names; but, to be candid, these things did not interest me; I have heard him say he would kill the old bitch; I did everything in my power to break down this feeling; I would advise him to leave the house if he had so much trouble with her; from the sale of the house up to six or eight months ago I had almost daily intercourse with him; I would frequently meet him at the stable, on Tenth street, where he kept his horses, and would walk with him.

Mr. Hagert—How many horses did he keep at the stable?

Mr. O'Byrne—We object. The man's guilt or innocence is not measured by the number of horses he keeps or the time they make.

Mr. Hagert—I ask this to show the pecuniary condition of the prisoner, that he kept three horses and a phaeton, and had no money, and his property was under execution.

Mr. O'Byrne then proceeded, in support of his objection, to argue that it was not competent to show the prisoner's impecuniosity as a proof of a motive.

The Court had no difficulty in admitting the question, citing Eugene Aram's case, Dr. Webster's case, Williams' case and Winnemore's case. If a tumbler of water was drank, and it was proposed to find who drank it, it would certainly be proper to show that a man who entered the room where the water was, was dying with thirst, and on the same principle the Court admitted the testimony.

Mr. Hagert—Mr. Gilbert, you have said that Mrs. Hill and Mr. Henderson had an interview with you; did you communicate to Mr. Twitchell what then occurred?

Witness—I did; I told Mr. Twitchell his mother-in-law had called on me and told me that he and her daughter had robbed her; that she had placed in the wardrobe and bureau $1000 at one time, and $1200 at another, and parts of those sums had each time been taken; I told him that I did not feel safe holding that will any longer under those circumstances; he said he would take the will back; I declined to let him have it without an order from his wife, as she had entrusted it to me; he got the order, and I gave him the will; the order was dated July 27, 1868; I do not think he made any other reply to what I said; I have visited the house at Tenth and Pine streets several times; I know they kept dogs there, for it is as much as one man can do to keep them off him if he enters the front door; they were noisy; I never spoke to the defendant after the interview of July 27, 1868.

Cross-examined—We ceased to be friends some eight months ago; all the conversations with him about his mother-in-law were about a year ago; when he made these statements we were friends; I might say that when he told me his troubles we were quite intimate; we used to meet at the stable, and I would go riding with him; I thought he was attached to me; he did not tell me of Mrs. Hill accusing him of robbing her as an instance of how queer she was; I did not hear the word "queer," it was "devil;" he never told me that she would put her money in various places, would forget where she put it, and afterward find it; I never heard of this; he never again told me that the kindly relations between them had been resumed; I read that will; I showed it to no one except Mrs. Hill, in the presence of her agent; this was a will leaving the property to her husband and not to her mother; I did not consider the making the will to Mrs. Hill a violation of confidence, because I considered it unsafe to keep it in my possession after the fearful story she had told me of this man's conduct and his wife's.

Mr. Mann asked to have this explanation stricken out. The Court, relaxing the strict rule of law, struck out the record after the word "no," at the same time saying they found no ground for reflection upon the witness for the exhibition of that will. The taking back of this will was not his motion; it was mine; after Mrs. Hill's account of the conduct of these people I did not think it safe to keep any paper belonging to such people; I called on Mrs. Twitchell, but she was not at home, and I left my name; Mr. Twitchell then called upon me and I told him what Mrs. Hill had said, and that I did not think it safe to keep the will; he said he would take it; I took it and inquired into the production of an order from his wife; I did not say to him that I had never shown the will to anyone, calling upon God to witness the truth of what I said; the prisoner was at the stable nearly all the time; I did not go riding with him more frequently than with anybody else; I did not go with him every day, and never quarrelled; we never had an unkind word; he never reproached me for showing the will to the old lady; he always treated me with kindness, and I returned the same to him; I simply ceased intercourse with him; I was never an agent in any way for Mr. or Mrs. Twitchell.

Randall E. Morgan sworn—I am the Sheriff of the county of Camden.

Mr. Hagert—I propose to show that the execution was issued against the prisoner's property in Camden, and on the Monday following the murder, was levied.

Mr. Mann objected.

The witness had not the landlord's warrant with him and for that reason was withdrawn, for the present.

Joseph Henderson, sworn—I knew Mrs. Hill; had known her some twenty six years; at the time of her death she was the widow of Samuel Hill, who died on February 13, 1865; Mr. and Mrs. Twitchell were not residing with them at this time; they had only been married a year or so then; I was Mrs. Hill's agent after the death of her husband, who was a relative of mine; Mrs. Hill and Mr. Twitchell appeared to be friendly until the latter part of July last; about that time a gentleman called upon me and in consequence of what he told me I called to see Mrs. Hill; at this interview Mr. Twitchell was not present, but before I left the house he came into the dining-room and, in a very excited manner, asked me why I had come to create a disturbance in the family, coupling it with, "I give you ten minutes to get out;" I answered that I was in no hurry; he said I would better attend to my own business, and not interfere with other people's; I said I was there on business with Mrs. Hill; he again commanded me to leave in ten minutes, saying he would put me out by force, or get a policeman to put me out; I told him to use his pleasure, but that perhaps the latter would be the better way; he went out as if after an officer, and was followed by Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Twitchell; I remained there a short time, talking with Mrs. Hill, and then took my departure; I used to see Mrs. Hill once a week or once in two or three weeks ever since the death of Mr. Hill; she visited my house and consulted me about her business matters; Mrs. Hill was a woman of considerable means; Mr. Hill left the estate which Mrs Hill possessed; after these conversations with Mrs. Hill I received a bundle of deeds for the property at Tenth and Pine streets; there is a deed among them to Camilla E. Twitchell; I got this bundle of deeds from Mrs. Hill; Mrs. Hill and I had been to Mr. Gilbert's together, and it was after that she brought the deeds to me; it was the following afternoon.

Mr. Hagert here proposed to prove that this witness informed Mrs. Hill that the deed had been made out in her daughter's name. It was objected to by the defence, and the objection was sustained.

Mr. Hagert—Mr. Henderson, do you know the handwriting of the prisoner?

Witness—I do; I have seen him write; this is his writing. (An instrument, purporting to be a tax receipt for 1867 on the house at Tenth and Pine streets, signed by the prisoner for Mrs. Hill, was shown to the witness and put in evidence.)

Question by Mr. Hagert—Had Mrs. Hill made an appointment with you to go and employ counsel on the Monday or Tuesday following the murder, with the view of instituting legal proceedings for the recovery of the property?

The defence objected because this was a question as to a conversation.

Mr. Hagert said he would be unable to show that this was communicated to the prisoner, but he would argue from the circumstances of his being in the same house with Mrs. Hill, being in constant intercourse with her, that he must have known it.

Mr. Mann argued that it was not competent, more especially in a capital case, to prove one circumstance, of a purely circumstantial case, by other very weak and unreliable circumstances, which, when strongest, did not receive too much confidence in this Court.

Mr. Hagert said that he well recollected how firmly Mr. Mann believed in circumstantial evidence when Armstrong, Probst, Williams and Winnemore were hung upon it.

The Court sustained the objection and ruled out the question.

In answer to the District Attorney the witness proceeded: I had no conversation in reference to the reconveyance of this property, or with Mrs. Hill in his presence; when I made collections for Mrs. Hill they were paid to her at my house; the last payment I made to her was of $276 65, on the Friday preceding the murder, November 20.

Cross-examined—I estimated the personal estate, all in money, that she got by her husband's death, at $35,000; under Mr. Hill's will she had a life estate in his real estate; I collected the ground rents for her; she collected the house rents, unassisted by Mrs. Twitchell; the income was about $3000; after her death the property was to go to Mr. Hill's heirs, not to the prisoner or his wife; I don't know what the latter carried money in her clothing; I do not know that she deposited money in a saving fund; I do not know where she kept her money.

Mr. Mann—Have you not said she carried large sums of money about her person?

Mr. Hagert objected to the question, on the ground that it was not cross-examination, and if it was asked for the purpose of contradiction, the name of the person to whom he said it should be given.

Mr. Mann said he candidly believed the woman was murdered for her money which she carried about her person, and if he could get at any fair means of showing that he made a bank of herself, he would use it.

The Court thought this was not cross-examination and therefore ruled it out.

Re-examined—When I would pay money to Mrs. Hill she would put it into a pocket-book, and then put that pocket-book into a leather satchel, which latter she carried in her hand.

Edward R. Jones sworn—I am a conveyancer; (the deed already put in evidence was handed the witness); the name of Camilla E. Twitchell was put into the body of this deed by the prisoner; Mrs. Hill was not present; he first directed it to be made in his own name, and afterward in his wife's; he made the indorsement on the bundle of papers at the settlement; after the execution of the deed it was handed first to Mr. Twitchell and then to myself to be recorded; I took it from the Recorder's office and gave it to Mr. Twitchell.

Cross-examined—He did not mention Mrs. Hill's name a fall.

Mr. Mann here asked that the clothing offered by the commonwealth be delivered to the defence for submission to some expert for examination. The Court required that the name of the proposed expert should be given before such an order could be made. The defence declined to do so, and the Court, for its own security, refused the order.

At 5 o'clock the Court adjourned.

TREASURER SPINNER.

His Letter on a Return to Specie Payment.

The following letter has been written by General Spinner, Treasurer of the United States, to Hon. David Wilder, for many years Treasurer of the State of Massachusetts, concerning the different views which have been presented on the resumption of specie payments:—

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1868.—DEAR SIR:—Your very kind and suggestive letter of the 16th inst. has been received. * * * You say that you "have no fear, in case of resumption, that specie would be called for, as experience here for many years has shown that it is not that we need so much as paper measured by it, but founded upon and representing legitimate mercantile transactions in property, which is at all times readily convertible."

"Paper measured by it!"—that is, paper measured by specie. Well, that all sounds very well, but it is not quite so clear how commercial paper is to be measured by specie that is only imaginary, and which really does not exist. In any country not in a state of suspension, it is precisely the actual amount of specie that such country possesses that constitutes the measure of the value of all commercial paper, and of all the salable commodities of that country as well. Coin is to commerce what the balance wheel is to a watch or the governor to a steam engine—it is a check and a regulator. It is no always the measure of all commodities, it certainly adjusts their price and relative value to each other by its own standard.

An engine without a "governor," if put in motion, would run on unchecked from fast to faster, and faster still, till at length, by the force of centrifugal power, its wheels would burst, and the fragments would fly off in tangents. A system of national or of commercial credits that has not this gold governor may, in times of small credits, and with a belief that such a governor does not exist, move on for a time in seeming security. But the unerring and inexorable law of commercial adjustment cannot be long set at naught, and sooner or later the sure punishment for its violation will overwhelm communities, when, unfortunately, the innocent and the guilty will suffer alike. It is to guard against such commercial disruptions and universal "burst-ups" that the gold check is indispensably necessary.

You go on to say that you "believe that the conversion of all currency obligations, public and private, into those payable in specie, at a fair valuation (say seventy-five cents on the dollar), would at once put us on safe footing, and liberate two hundred millions of useless gold now held by those who are oblized unwillingly to use it in paying duties and interest on the public debt." You state it as your opinion that "this commutation would not impair the validity of contracts, as we did by suspension, because it would assuredly give creditors the same value or purchasing power they claim, though the number of dollars would be less."

Now, if it is right to force by a law of Congress such a commutation scheme to pay seventy five per cent. in gold for the par of the promises of the Government, so that private debtors may thus pay their creditors, then it would seem to be equally right for the Government itself to pay its debts due its creditors in the same. Such a compromise would at a blow strike out one quarter of the entire indebtedness of the country. If the Government should avail itself of such an expedient, the national debt would be reduced more than six hundred million dollars. Would the world think this honest? The proposition that you make to apply in the cases of private or individual debts is substantially and practically the same as that proposed by General Butler for the payment of the public debt. Yours has the advantage of his in this—it fixes the value of the Government's promises to pay at seventy-five cents on the dollar, while his, as I understand it, would leave them at an uncertain amount that would probably in a short time carry them down to a very low figure.

Your brave old Commonwealth to-day presents, through two of her gifted sons, one in the Senate and the other in the House of Representatives of the United States, the two extremes of our financial problem. You and I are not so wide apart as they. The one is ardent and earnest in urging that an almost immediate resumption of specie payments is necessary to the country's salvation. The other feels equally sure that it would be better for public and private interests that specie payments should be indefinitely postponed. The one comes near to the belief that "the way to resumption is to resume." It would not bring a drowned man to life to repeat ever so often that "the way to resuscitate is to resuscitate." Neither will the other cry avail. Patient applications of the proper means are necessary in either case. The other extreme, the putting off the time for effort indefinitely, is equally dangerous; for unless the subject is treated in time, it may be eternally too late.

I am strongly inclined in favor of the measure proposed by Governor Morton in the Senate. I would, however, prefer to see his bill amended in various particulars. The two leading ones are:—First, the banks should not be permitted to remain in a state of suspension for a day, much less for six months, as he proposes, after resumption by the Treasury of the United States; and second, the dividends on the Government stocks belonging to the banks, but held in trust by the Treasurer as security for the redemption of their circulating notes, should be retained by the Treasurer and not be paid over to the banks, to be held by them until the day of resumption; and the retention of these dividends by the Treasurer should commence a year earlier than proposed by the bill.

If it is right to give the bank six months after the Government shall have resumed, at the end of which they shall resume, then it would seem equally right that individual debtors to the banks should have another six months after resumption by the banks before they shall be required to make payments in coin or its equivalent. Resumption, to be successful, must be simultaneous. The three estates—the people, the banks, and the Government—must stand together, or they will fall, and fall together. The banks will not be able to stand without the assistance of the Government; and the Government, being the indorser of the notes of the banks to the amount of three hundred million dollars, would probably fall if the banks should fail; and the people, unfortunately for themselves, could but follow in the wake of the other two.

A simultaneous resumption would not be unaptly represented by a tripod, or a three-sided pyramid, each side leaning against and at the same time supporting the other two sides. If the dividends are retained but for one and a half years, as proposed by the bill, they would amount to but nine per cent. To commence the retention a year earlier would give them fifteen per cent. in gold on the day of resumption. This certainly would seem to be little enough, and as this gold would form a part of the banks' reserve, as required by law, it would be no new hardship nor unreasonable demand.

If the dividends are paid over to the banks they will be apt, if they have any reason, to reason thus:—"Gold is now at a premium of thirty-five per cent. As the day of resumption draws nearer and nearer the premium will constantly become less and less. Therefore it will be well for us to sell our gold now, when the premium is high, and buy it back again by and by, when the premium will be low." Will not this temptation be too great for the divided consciences of some of these soulless corporations to resist? The danger would be that when the day of resumption drew near many of the banks would be in the market buying gold, and, in consequence of this urgent demand, the price, instead of being at par, might command such a premium as to prove the desired resumption little more than a fizzle and a failure.

If the gold is retained in the treasury, to be delivered to the banks a few days before the time fixed upon for resumption, this danger would be avoided. The interest of the government is simply the interest of the people. The banks can have no antagonistic interest, for commercial misfortunes to their customers would be hazardous, if not fatal to them. In a word, your plan contemplates the striking down instantly, at one blow, the nominal value of the United States legal tender note to an arbitrary value of only three-fourths of its face value.

Governor Morton's bill, on the contrary, aims to appreciate the Government note, that now stands at about seventy-five cents, as compared with the gold dollar, by degrees, from day to day, running for two and a half years, making the appreciation about one per cent. every twenty-six days, until on the day of resumption the "greenback" dollar note shall have made itself the equal in commercial value of the gold dollar. The one plan would tear down, and is forced and violent, and would cause jar, confusion, and mischief, not only in monetary but in all business affairs. The other proposes to build up and foster the appreciation of the greenback to the par value of gold, by a process so gradual, gentle, steady, and smooth, the change would scarcely be perceptible by the debtor or creditor; and both alike would be able to make their calculations and business arrangements from time to time during the process of appreciation with such accuracy and certainty that no serious harm could come to either class.

REAL ESTATE SALE.—James A. Freeman, auctioneer, sold yesterday at noon, at the Exchange, the following:—

300 shares Honeycomb Petroleum Company of Pennsylvania, at 3c.	$9
Front and Dock streets—Leasing of the tobacco warehouses and five brick stores adjoining, for five years, by order of Commissioners of City Property, at $8200 per annum,	$41,000
Ground rent of $90 per annum—Well secured and punctually paid,	1,400
919 Spruce—Desirable three story brick dwelling, above Ninth street, lot 18 by 52 feet,	6,500
920 Mellon street—Three-story brick dwelling, with back buildings, lot 15½ by 86½ feet, subject to $66 per annum,	2,675
407 Rush street—Two-story brick house, below Coral street, Twenty-fifth ward, lot 15 by 61½ feet,	1,350
411 Rush street—Two-story brick house and lot, 14 by 64 feet,	1,170
417 Rush street—two-story brick house and lot, 14 by 64 feet,	1,245
214 Currant alley—Two two story brick houses, with attics, below Walnut street, Eighth ward, lot 14½ by 78 feet, subject to $30 per annum,	1,450

MARINE TELEGRAPH.

For additional Marine News see First Page.

ALMANAC FOR PHILADELPHIA—THIS DAY.
SUN RISES.....7 22 | MOON SETS.....1 53
SUN SETS.....4 47 | HIGH WATER.....10 11

PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.
SAMUEL E. STOKES, GEO. N. TATHAM, ANDREW WHEELER. } MONTHLY COMMITTEE.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMERS.

FOR AMERICA.

Bellona	London	New York	Nov. 28
Berlin	Southampton	Baltimore	Dec. 4
U. Kingdom	Glasgow	New York	Dec. 4
Europa	Liverpool	New York	Dec. 5
City of Cork	Liverpool	New York	Dec. 5
Tarifa	Liverpool	New York	Dec. 8
City of London	Liverpool	New York	Dec. 8
Erin	Liverpool	New York	Dec. 9
Hibernian	Liverpool	Portland	Dec. 10
Australian	Liverpool	New York	Dec. 12
Celtic	London	New York	Dec. 12

FOR EUROPE.

Main	New York	Bremen	Dec. 24
C. of London	New York	Liverpool	Dec. 26
Queen	New York	Liverpool	Dec. 26
U. Kingdom	New York	Glasgow	Dec. 26
Bellona	New York	London	Dec. 26
St. Laurent	New York	Havre	Dec. 28
Peruvian	Portland	Liverpool	Dec. 26
C. of Cork	New York	Liverpool	Dec. 29
C. of Baltimore	New York	Liverpool	Jan. 2
City of Boston	New York	Liverpool	Jan. 9
Kins	New York	Liverpool	Jan. 12
C. of Antwerp	New York	Liverpool	Jan. 16

COASTWISE, DOMESTIC, ETC.

Morro Castle	New York	Havana	Dec. 24
Wyoming	Philada	savannah	Dec. 26
Geo. Cromwell	New York	New Orleans	Dec. 26
Stars and Stripes	Philada	Havana	Jan. 6

Mails are forwarded by every steamer in the regular lines. The steamers for or from Liverpool call at Queenstown, except the Canadian line, which call at Londonderry. The steamers for or from the Continent call at Southampton

CLEARED YESTERDAY.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

"A Flash of Lightning" at the Arch.

Augustin Daly's drama of *A Flash of Lightning* was produced last evening at the Arch to a full house. The work of preparing the effects of the piece continued up to the moment of the rising of the curtain, and it was even feared that it could not be got ready in time. Notwithstanding this, the play went off very smoothly for a first night, and if the applause of the audience is to be considered as an evidence of success, it may be pronounced a decided hit. The success of the piece, however, is to be attributed entirely to spirited acting and fine scenic effects, for, considered by itself, it is a mass of unmitigated trash, and of all the worthless plays that have proceeded from the pen of Daly it presents about the least claims to favorable notice. We do not look for nature or probability in such a production as this, but the story should be told in an understandable manner. The author of *Under the Gaslight*, however, has considered his plot merely as something upon which to string as many sensational effects as possible; and if we take this view of the case, and estimate the merit of a drama by the number of startling situations it contains, *A Flash of Lightning* might be considered a very superior production. The plot turns upon the fact that a gold chain disappears mysteriously from a room where it had been placed. A young lady suspects that her lover, who had just quarrelled with her, is the thief, and to shield him she allows the suspicion to attach to herself. After various adventures in an all-night cellar in the First ward, New York, upon a burning steamboat, and submitting to indignities innumerable, it is discovered that a flash of lightning was the purloiner of the missing chain; and the minds of the young lady, her lover, and her family are relieved by finding the gold of the chain melted by the lightning and scattered in fragments among the coal in a scuttle. There are some tolerably good popular hits in the dialogue, which serve to keep the audience amused, but there is a vast amount of irrelevant matter which is tedious, uninteresting, and so utterly absurd that it ought to be ruthlessly cut out, and the dimensions of the play reduced by one-third at least. For instance, what can be more ridiculous than the gay and festive clerk, on a crowded steamboat, singing a serenade outside of a young lady's state-room door? The characters in the piece are commonplace in the extreme, and the actors are entitled to considerable credit for giving them a recognizable human likeness. Mr. Mackay, in particular, plays the part of "Mr. Gassy Fulton," the Irish-American citizen, with much ability. The other parts are fairly represented as follows:—"Jack Ryde," Barton Hill; "Fred Chauncey," L. L. James; "Sniffley," A. Everly; "Sam. Pidge," R. Craig; "Benedetto," S. Hemple; "Engineer of the Daniel Drew," Mr. Wallis; "Terry Dowberry," T. A. Creese; "Bob," Mr. Meagher; "Patsy," Rowland Reed; "Davy," Little Guisseppe; "Dan," Mr. Snyder; "Ned," Mr. Norton; "Gammit," Mr. Osborne; "The Nervous Passenger," Mr. O'Brien; "Captain of the Vanderbilt," Mr. Collins; "Bessie Fallon," Miss Price; "Rose Fallon," Miss Davenport; "Miss Dowberry," Mrs. C. F. Maeder; "Ann," Mrs. Styles.

A Flash of Lightning is placed upon the stage in the best style. The scenery is good and the effects are very well managed. The steamboat race, in the second act, with the panorama of the Hudson, and the burning boat in the third act, are very fine scenes.

The City Amusements.

AT THE CHESNUT there will be three performances to-morrow. The circus troupe now at this establishment contains a number of very superior artists in their various lines of business, and the entertainment is one that can be heartily enjoyed. Full houses will be the order of the day and night at the Chesnut to-morrow, we doubt not.

AT THE WALNUT Robertson's comedy of *Society* and the play of *The People's Lawyer* will be given this evening. There will be matinee and evening performances to-morrow, when Henry Leslie's drama of *The Orange Girl* will be produced, with new scenery, appointments, and mechanical effects. The farce of *Up for the Holidays* will also be given.

HERR EDWARD HETZ, the German pianist, will give a concert at Musical Fund Hall on Saturday evening, assisted by Miss Carrie Rentz, Mr. C. R. Rentz, Herr Carl Gaertner, and Professor L. Engelke. Herr Hetz is said to be a very superior performer. Tickets can be procured at Trumpler's, No. 926 Chesnut street.

MRS. SCOTT-SIDDONS will commence a series of performances this evening at the Academy of Music, appearing as "Rosalind" in Shakespeare's comedy of *As You Like It*. Mrs. Siddons will be supported by the New York Theatre Company.

AT THE ARCH Daly's drama of *A Flash of Lightning* will be performed to-morrow afternoon and evening.

AT THE AMERICAN there will be a matinee to-morrow. A fine Christmas programme will be presented.

AT THE THEATRE COMIQUE Levy's operetta of *Fanchette* and the farce of *A Phenomenon in a Smock Frock* will be performed to-morrow afternoon and evening.

MISS HENRIETTA MARKSTEIN will give a concert at Concert Hall to-morrow. Miss Markstein will be assisted by Miss Caroline McCaffrey, Signor Severin Fröhlich, and Mr. Herman Voight. A matinee will be given on Saturday.

CARL SENTZ' and MARK HASSLER'S Orchestra will give a matinee at Musical Fund Hall on Saturday. The celebrated "Children's Symphony" will be performed.

CITY ITEMS.

WE have the evidence each day of numbers who purchase of us, after having examined other stocks, which, under different pleas, are being "sacrificed" that our goods are sold at lower prices than any other Clothing in Philadelphia.

The general experience is that such goods are

NOT SO CHEAP AS REPRESENTED, and the public—those who have purchased them and those who have not—many of the former to their cost, are generally becoming aware of this fact.

OUR STOCK IS FULL AND COMPLETE, our assortment unbroken, we being in receipt each day of large lots of new goods, replacing those sold, which are being manufactured not

TO BE SACRIFICED, but to successfully compete with any other goods in the market in all respects, style, fit, make, or price.

WE IN GOOD FAITH carry out our established rule, now, as at all other times.

"We guarantee all prices lower than the lowest elsewhere; also, guarantee full satisfaction to every purchaser, or the sale cancelled and money refunded."

TO PROTECT OUR PATRONS and fully carry out this rule at present, we have REDUCED ALL PRICES

WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST buyers of clothing after having examined the stocks which are being "sacrificed," to examine ours before purchasing. A FAIR TEST IS ALL WE ASK.

Half-way between Fifth and Sixth streets. } BENNETT & CO., TOWER HALL, No. 518 MARKET ST., PHILADELPHIA, AND No. 609 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

CAUTION: what you drink, or offer others to drink See that the signature of "Alfred Speer, Passaic, N J.," is over the cork of every bottle of wine you purchase for the New Year table. ASK for Speer's Port Grape Wine at Johnson, Holloway & Co.'s, No. 602 Arch street; Fred. Brown, corner Fifth and Chesnut, and other Druggists; and Thompson Black & Co., corner Broad and Chesnut.

JEWELRY.—Mr. William W. Cassidy, No. 12 South Second street, has the largest and most attractive assortment of fine jewelry and silverware in the city Purchasers can rely upon obtaining a real, pure article furnished at a price which cannot be equalled. He also has a large stock of American Western watches in all varieties and at all prices. A visit to his store is sure to result in pleasure and profit.

CHRISTMAS CAROL, not by DICKENS.

THE SNOW, THE SNOW, THE SNOW,
The fa ll g, drifting snow,
On the house-tops, on the shed,
Under your feet, on top of your head,
Look where you will, above, below,
You see the snow the snow.
THE COLD, THE CHEERLESS SNOW,
The freezing cold and snow,
How the wind it laughs as by it goes,
While it nips your fingers and bites your toes.
And shivering poverty cries in pain
As it enters their hearts, and out again
Over the hill see the demons go.
The wind and the drifting snow.
HOW TO LAUGH AT THE WIND AND SNOW—
Buy a BEAVER COAT from STOKES & CO.,
And snap your fingers at cold and snow,
And merrily sing, as on you go,
"I fear not the wind and snow,
For good warm clothes be careful to go
And buy them cheap; you'll find 'tis so
At STOKES & Co., CHARLES STOKES & Co.,
No. 824 Chesnut street"

ENERGY TRIUMPHANT.—The many patrons of the popular Hoop Skirt Establishment of Mr. William T. Hopkins will be pleased to learn that his extensive and increasing trade demanded more commodious quarters, to supply which he has removed from No. 628 Arch street to his present spacious, new four story building, No. 1115 Chesnut street (Girard Row), where he has opened the largest assortment of Ladies', Misses', and Children's Hoop Skirts, Corsets, etc, etc., to be found in this or any other city in the Union. To which has been added a New Department in Ladies' Under garments, which is meeting with much favor. In this connection we would call attention to the success nearly always attending the production of a first-class grade of goods. Less than five years since, the entire operations of Mr. Hopkins—manufacturing, finishing, and selling—were confined to a single room of very moderate dimensions; then gradually extended to the entire building at the old stand, which in turn becoming too contracted, has been relinquished, as before stated, for his present centrally located and superbly-arranged Chesnut Street Emporium, which should claim inspection from all interested in articles in his line. The growth of this enterprise has been attended by Mr. Hopkins' constant personal supervision throughout every branch of his business, his unceasing determination, regardless of expense, to manufacture an article that would supply as near as possible the demands of first-class trade, and which could be warranted in every respect; selling at moderate rates, adhering strictly to one price, advertising liberally, and making no misrepresentations in any form to effect sales, all of which have combined to make the reputation of his "Champion" Hoop Skirts world-wide, and universally praised by all who try them. We therefore predict for his new location continued and increasing favor.

CHRISTMAS.—Christmas eve has arrived, and presents innumerable to please the eyes of old and young to-morrow morning, are still unpurchased and undecided upon. There is still time, however, but it is important to know exactly where to go for the purpose of selecting the most suitable articles. Turner Brothers & Co., No. 803 Chesnut street, have an immense stock of books and articles of every description for holiday gifts, and as they conduct their business on the principle of small profits and quick sales their patrons will have no trouble in finding some thing suited to their tastes and pockets at their establishment. Messrs Turner Brothers & Co. have all the standard works of the day, and all the finely-illustrated and elegantly-bound volumes which are published for the holidays Old and young, rich and poor, can all be suited. This house also makes a specialty of chromo-lithographs, and they keep a large assortment of the best pictures published in Europe or America. To any one who may be in doubt about what to choose for a Christmas gift to a relative or friend of almost any age, we would unhesitatingly say, purchase a bright, attractive Chromo. One of these pictures, neatly but inexpensively framed, will be a perpetual delight not only to the possessor, but to an entire household; and as they are published in all styles and at all prices, there need be no difficulty in selecting something that will be pleasing and yet not cost a great deal of money. In addition to their books and chromos Messrs. Turner Brothers & Co. have an infinite variety of fancy articles of every description and their store is well worthy of a visit, even if nothing is purchased.

YE SHIVERING MORTALS who stand in mortal fear of winter's blast and its accompanying ills, why don't you go to Alter's famous Coal Yard, at No. 927 N. Ninth street, and get the very best of coal? It is a domestic paradox why men and women will go stamping and fuming about the house because the state, instead of coal, fire gives forth no heat, when Alter keeps constantly the cheapest and best of fuel. In such a gift as a ton, even more or less, of coal, there is a merit which makes it doubly interesting to the recipient. Thousands of dollars are to-day being wasted on trifles, which, if but turned to some good account, by stocking some deserving poor man's cellar with Alter's coal, would greatly ameliorate misery in our midst: and he who is prompted to do such a kind act, not only to the poor, but to Alter himself, should remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

DO NOT FAIL TO VISIT, previous to the holidays, the two establishments—one at No. 27 North Eighth street, the other at No. 245 North Ninth street—of the Woelpper Brothers, shirt manufacturers, and wholesale and retail dealers in ladies' and gents' furnishing goods. You will miss a rare chance of procuring at the cheapest rates some of the finest and prettiest of goods, if you neglect to heed this advice. Not only do the stores contain large quantities of goods, but every article is of the latest mode, and consequently you need have no fear of obtaining anything old fashioned. Polite attendance and a willingness to gratify the most capricious taste combined with the superior character of their goods, have gained the reputation and made the success of the Messrs. Woelpper. Again we say, don't fail to visit their stores.

THE useful always most desirable. The preparations made by Ritchie, at No. 29 North Eighth street, for the holiday season, are appreciated by every one who contemplates making presents. He has got in his fine stock kid-lined gloves, ties, scarfs, suspenders, linen cambric handkerchiefs and mufflers; also, a good assortment of portemonnaies, cigar cases, hair brushes, combs, and a thousand other articles, useful and ornamental. Call at No. 29 North Eighth street if you want any kind of goods cheap.

FINE FRENCH CALF BOOTS AND GAITERS.—The man who has never experienced the pleasure of wearing a pair of boots made by William H. Helweg, is to some extent an object of commiseration. We speak knowingly, having worn Helweg's boots for years. Their comfort, however, is not their only recommendation, as they are made of the best material and in the very best manner Helweg will not employ an incompetent workman; therefore his work is always first-class. His store and factory is at No. 635 Arch Street, next to the corner of Sixth.

THE GROVER & BAKER SEWING MACHINE.—Among the points of superiority of the Grover & Baker Sewing Machine (sold at No. 730 Chesnut street) over all others are the following:—It is very simple, and easily learned; the sewing from the ordinary spools is a great advantage; the stitch is entirely reliable; it does the ornamental work beautifully, and the embroidery stitch; it is not liable to get out of order; it operates very easily, and is, in fact, the only *perfect* machine.

A HACKING COUGH is one of the most distressing as well as dangerous forms of cough one can be afflicted with. Its continuous action fatigues and irritates the lungs, and thus engenders consumption. Upham's Fresh Meat Cure will cure the cough, soothe the irritated bronchia, and give tone and vigor to the lungs and whole system.

A single bottle will convince any one of its purity Sold one dollar per bottle

JOHNSTON, HOLLOWAY & COWDEN, No. 602 Arch street.

COAL, COAL, COAL for the million. Now is the time to lay in your winter's store of fuel. Old King Frost is drawing pictures on the windows, and the moist snow is wetting your feet. Build bright fires and bid the cold defiance. But to build the fires you must have good coal—and where should you purchase it if not at the celebrated Alter's, No. 927 North Ninth street (office Sixth and Spring Garden streets). He has it in abundance, too—notwithstanding the recent strike in the coal regions—and is ready to furnish customers with all sizes and kinds, at the very lowest prices.

TO AUCTIONEERS AND CLOTHIERS.—We have a large stock of Ready-made Clothing unequalled in the city in style, fit, and make, which we intend to close out It includes every kind of seasonable garments—Men's, Youths', Boys', and Children's—is especially adapted to the holiday season. No better or more useful present can be found, and at the reduced prices at which we are running it off, will pay a good profit to any clothier for private sale, or any auctioneer for public sale, during the hot day season.

Half way between Fifth and Sixth streets. } BENNETT & CO., TOWER HALL, No. 518 MARKET ST., PHILADELPHIA, AND No. 609 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

SPEER'S "STANDARD WINE BITTERS."—The most excellent Bitters in the market made of pure native wine, in which have been steeped such herbs and roots that make the most strengthening and healthy Tonic. Sold by Druggists.

GROVER & BAKER'S Highest Premium Sewing Machines, No. 730 Chesnut street.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

COLD WEATHER DOES NOT CHAP or roughen the skin after using WRIGHT'S ALCONA EDGLYARIN TABLETS OF SOLIDIFIED GLYCERIN. Its daily use makes the skin delicately soft and beautiful. It is delightfully fragrant, transparent, and incomparable as a toilet soap. For sale by all Druggists. A. & G. A. WRIGHT, 24 No. 624 CHESNUT Street.

PIANOS—PIANOS—PIANOS.—GREAT SALE OF ELEGANT ROSEWOOD PIANOS, AT AN EXTRAORDINARY REDUCTION OF PRICES, FROM DECEMBER 1, 1868, TO JANUARY 1, 1869.

We have made a reduction of prices on our extensive stock of superior and beautiful Rosewood Pianos as follows viz:—

No. 1 Cases, $400, for $250. No. 2 Cases, $425, for $275. No. 3 Cases, $440, for $295. No. 4 Cases, $475, for $325. No. 5 Cases, $500, for $375. No. 6 Cases, $550, for $410. No. 7 Cases, $575, for $425. No. 8 Cases, $600, for $440. No. 9 Cases, $650, for $500. No. 10 Cases, $700, for $550. Square Grand, $800, for $600. Concert Grand, $1200, for $875.

We offer the above great inducements to those wishing to purchase at *bargains* before the Holidays. We have the largest assortment of instruments on hand that has ever been offered in this city and are determined to close out our present large stock at "*Manufacturers' first cost prices.*" Every instrument is warranted to give satisfaction, and at these low prices we place within the reach of every one, the opportunity of obtaining one of these *justly celebrated and highly improved Pianos.*

Call and examine them at our new and beautiful warerooms, No. 1103 CHESNUT Street.

SCHOMACKER PIANO MF'G CO., 11 15 tuths 12 31 No. 1103 CHESNUT Street.

CHRISTMAS DINNER TO THE POOR.—The Teachers of the Schools and Managers of the BEDFORD STREET MISSION will give a Dinner on CHRISTMAS DAY to the Scholars of their Day and Sabbath Schools, at the MISSION HOUSE, No. 619 BEDFORD Street. Dinner on the table at 12 o'clock. The friends of the Mission, and all who feel an interest in the poor of that degraded section of our city, are cordially invited to be present. Singing by the Scholars in the Chapel previous to the Dinner.

Contributions of money, poultry, provisions coal, and clothing thankfully received by the undersigned Managers of the Mission, for distribution among the sick and suffering:—

EDMUND S. YARD, No. 209 Spruce street.
JACOB H. BURDSALL, No. 1121 Chesnut.
WILLIAM A. SMETHURST, No. 7 Bank.
JAMES L. SISTARE, No. 710 S. Second.
E. A. JOHNSON, N. E. cor. Fourth and Arch
GEORGE MILLIKEN, No. 828 Arch.
REV. J. D. LONG, No. 619 Bedford 12 16 8t

A NATIONAL POULTRY EXHIBITION,

Under the auspices of the PENNSYLVANIA POULTRY SOCIETY, will be held at HORTICULTURAL HALL, BROAD Street, below Locust, from December 21 to 26, inclusive. Open from 10 A. M. until 10 P. M. daily. Admission, 25 cents; Children, 15 cents; Reason Tickets $1.

The Germania Orchestra Serenade Band has been engaged for the occasion.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS,
Thomas A. Andrews, Samuel J. Sharpless,
John Medowan, Windam Winter.
Charles T. Bonsall. 12 17 18 19 21 24 26

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 1, 1868.

NOTICE.—The Semi-annual Interest on the five and six per cent. loans of the City of Philadelphia due January 1, 1869, will be paid on and after that date.

Loans maturing January, 1869, will be paid on presentation, interest ceasing from date of maturity.

The ordinance of Councils approved May 9, 1868, directing that "all certificates of city loans shall be registered previous to the payment of the interest," will be strictly adhered to at the payment of the interest due January, 1869, to both resident and non-resident loan-holders.

JOSEPH N. PEIRSOL, 12 3 27 City Treasurer.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD, OFFICE OF GENERAL FREIGHT AGENT, No. 1312 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA, December 16, 1868.

NOTICE.—The rates for transportation of Gas and other Bituminous Coal to be carried over the Pennsylvania Railroad, Western Pennsylvania Railroad and Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, to take effect JANUARY 1, 1869, can be obtained upon application at this Office.

S. B. KINGSTON, General Freight Agent. 12 15 15t Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

LEE GEORGE'S DINING SALOON AND RESTAURANT,

No. 148 S. FOURTH street, above Walnut.

Bill of Fare embraces every delicacy of the season, and Meals are furnished at all hours. VENISON, PRAIRIE HENS GAME OF ALL KINDS, TERRAPIN, ETC ETC. SERVED DAILY.

A call is solicited. Parties served in the best manner. LEE GEORGE. 12 21 6t4p Successor to Tompkins & Co., No. 148 South FOURTH Street

THE "CLARENDON," No. 1516 CHESNUT STREET,

Having met with the most flattering success since its opening, the undersigned assures the public that nothing will be left undone to merit a continuance of the first-class patronage of ladies and gentlemen. All the delicacies of the market will be served at the saloon or at private residences, with promptness and on the most reasonable terms. Orders for dinners, suppers, and general catering attended to.

12 22 1m*rep TOMPKINS & CO.

NEW YORK AND MIDDLE COAL FIELD RAILROAD AND COAL COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA Dec. 22 1868.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the above-named Company will be held at their Office, No. 226 WALNUT Street, on TUESDAY, the 12th day of January next, A. D. 1869, at 12 o'clock, when an Election will be held for seven Directors to serve for the ensuing year. 12 24 thstu7t C. R. LINDSAY, Secretary.

OFFICE PHILADELPHIA AND TRENTON RAILROAD COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA, Dec 23, 1868.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders and an Election for twelve Directors for the ensuing year will be held at the Company's Office, No. 224 S. DELAWARE Avenue, on MONDAY, the 11th day of January, 1869, at 1 P. M. 12 23 wfmtJ 11 J. MORRELL, Secretary.

HANDSOME HOLIDAY GIFT.—THE PARLOR CUE ALLEY.

A combination of Ten Pins and Billiards. The Alley is light, and easily carried, and can be played on the Centre-Table. Call and examine at the Salesrooms, No. 413 CHESNUT street, second story. 12 19 stuth*

POST OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, PA. —FRIDAY, Dec. 25 (Christmas), this Office will open at 7 A. M. and close at 10 A. M. The usual early morning delivery and late night collection will be made. HENRY H. BINGHAM, 15 Postmaster.

HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD EXCURSION TICKETS, AT REDUCED RATES, BETWEEN ALL STATIONS, GOOD FROM DEC 23 to JAN. 2, 1869, INCLUSIVE. 12 15 6t

CAMBRIA IRON COMPANY.—The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Cambria Iron Company will be held at their office, No. 400 CHESNUT Street, Philadelphia, on TUESDAY, the 19th day of JANUARY next, at 4 o'clock P. M., when an election will be held for seven Directors to serve for the ensuing year.

JOHN T. KILLE, Secretary. Philadelphia, Dec. 17, 1868. 12 18 dtJ19*

FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK. PHILADELPHIA, December 11, 1868.

The Annual Election for Directors of this Bank will be held at the Banking House on WEDNESDAY, the 13th day of January next, between the hours of 11 o'clock A. M. and 2 o'clock P. M. 12 11 27* W. RUSHTON, JR., Cashier

SOUTHWARK NATIONAL BANK. PHILADELPHIA, December 12 1868

The Annual Election for Directors of this Bank will be held at the Banking House on TUESDAY, January 12 1869, between the hours of 10 o'clock A. M. and 12 o'clock M. P. LAMB, 12 16 w1mtJ12 Cashier

MESSRS. STEWART & CO., Upholsterers, Brooklyn, N.Y., state, in regard to Elastic Sponge, that they furnished several churches with cushions to the entire satisfaction of the parties interested, after cutting it to the thousand and one tests of Church Committees. 8 3 mwf

WILLIAM T. HOPKINS,

1115 CHESNUT STREET, GIRARD ROW, PHILADELPHIA,

OF THE CELEBRATED "CHAMPION" HOOP SKIRTS,

FOR LADIES, MISSES AND CHILDREN,

In Imported and Domestic Corsets, Ladies' Under Garments, Etc. Etc. Etc.

MANUFACTURER

And Dealer in

DRY GOODS.

EXTRAORDINARY

REDUCTIONS.

ALPACA POPLINS.

10 cases of ALPACA POPLINS of the choicest shades, reduced from 50 cents per yard to 25 cents per yard

RICKEY, SHARP & CO.,

No. 727 CHESNUT Street.

RICH CHANGEABLE CORDED SILKS.

2500 yards of RICH CHANGEABLE CORDED SILKS at $1 45 per yard.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO.,

No. 727 CHESNUT Street.

PLAID SILKS.

3000 yards of RICH PLAID SILKS at $1 25 per yard. A Decided Bargain.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO.,

No. 727 CHESNUT St.

SUPERB STRIPED SILKS.

4000 yards SUPERB STRIPED and CHANGEABLE SILKS at $1 50, $1 75, and $1 90 per yard. A Great Bargain.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO.,

No. 727 CHESNUT Street.

CLOAKING VELVETS.

Superb Quality of 28 inch, 30-inch, and 32-inch BLACK LYONS CLOAKING VELVETS. A Great Bargain.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO.,

No. 727 CHESNUT St.

VELVETEENS, VELVET CLOTHS, AND SUPERB ASTRACAN CLOAKING In great variety.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO.,

No. 727 CHESNUT St.

PARIS "LA BELLE" SKIRT.

All Styles of this justly celebrated SKIRT.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO.,

No. 727 CHESNUT Street.

BALMORALS OF THE BEST MANUFACTURE.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO.,

No. 727 CHESNUT St.,

12 21 4t4p PHILADELPHIA.

CHROMOS, ETC.

PICTURES FOR PRESENTS.

A. S. ROBINSON,

No. 910 CHESNUT Street,

HAS JUST RECEIVED

EXQUISITE SPECIMENS OF FINE ART,

SUITABLE FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS.

SPLENDID PAINTED PHOTOGRAPHS,

Including a Number of Choice Gems.

A SUPERB LINE OF CHROMOS.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF New Engravings, Etc.

RICH STYLE FRAMES,

Elegant New Patterns.

OCEAN DISASTER.

The Loss of the Steamship Hibernia—Statements Regarding the Calamity.

The following statements, regarding the loss of the Hibernia has been made by three of the passengers—Mr. Josiah Cocks, Mrs. Melvin, and Miss Rogerson:—

We commenced our voyage from New York on board the Hibernia on the 14th of November, and though the weather at first was somewhat rough, we had a pleasant voyage until the gale arose on Monday, the 23d, which resulted in the accident to the machinery on the morning of Tuesday, the 24th. About 2 o'clock on the morning of that day we were awakened by a loud noise like the crash of machinery, and on going to the cabin we learned that the noise had been caused by the screw knocking against the stern of the vessel. The captain met us and assured us there was no danger, and that all would be put right, and, resting confidently in the captain, we went to bed again, and hoped that in the morning we should find all right. But next morning the captain was not at breakfast, and his absence caused us to begin to think there was something wrong. Shortly afterwards he came and told us to take care of ourselves, and to get ready to go into the lifeboats, as it was quite probable we should require to leave the ship. Between 8 and 9 o'clock the boats were got ready, and water and provisions were put on board of them. The captain, however, kept cheerful, and said he had still hopes that they might manage to save the ship. Meantime the crew worked the pumps, and at the same time all on board kept ready to leave the ship, should they be ordered to do so. All the while a gale was blowing, but as the afternoon advanced it increased in fury, and it was evident that the danger to the ship was becoming greater. At about 4 o'clock on the Wednesday morning it was determined that the boats should be launched, but, owing to the high sea which was running at the time, this work was accomplished with some difficulty, as it was feared that the boats might be dashed to pieces against the side of the ship. But fortunately we got them all safely down, with the exception of the captain's boat No. 1, which was slightly injured. At twenty minutes past 5 o'clock the captain came to the cabin, and told the ladies to come on deck and go to the front part of the ship. The water at this time was ankle deep in the saloon, and was rapidly rising. All the cabin lady passengers went to the front of the vessel, and the cabin gentlemen passengers followed. There was no hurrying or crushing; all went orderly and quietly. By the assistance of the captain and the officers, one by one went over the sides of the ship until No. 1 life-boat was filled, and all the cabin lady passengers went off in that boat. When we shoved off, the cabin gentlemen passengers, in the same orderly way, went in the second boat, and successive boats were filled in the same quiet manner, each when ready shoving off to give place to the other boat. One old woman, a steerage passenger, sturdily refused to leave the ship, being determined not to quit company with her husband, but she was put on board the life-boat by force. She screamed loudly while being let down into the boat. When the last passenger had been got off, Captain Munro, with Mr. Brown, the chief engineer, who had remained directing the transference of the passengers to the small boats, came off in the last boat. Captain Munro immediately joined No. 1 boat and took charge of the rudder, while Mr. Brown went to take charge of No. 2 boat. The ship shortly afterwards sank. After we started off in the life-boats the boat in charge of the chief mate hoisted a sail, and a rope from it was attached to the captain's boat, but the rope soon broke. Some minutes afterwards a gust of wind caught the boat which had hoisted the sail, causing it to upset, and all on board of it were lost. None of the other boats could give the slightest assistance, all were so heavily laden and carried so much water. The captain soon after he took charge of the first boat, which was nearly half full of water, saw that it was too heavily laden, and called on the crew of one of the other boats to relieve him of some of the passengers or the boat would sink. The crew of the other boat answered the call of the captain and came alongside, taking two of the passengers off. Though thus relieved, the captain still feared for the safety of the passengers, on account of the amount of water which was in the boat. As the water continued to be baled out, however, the rudder began to obey him, and his hopes of safety revived. We sailed about all day, and during all the while scarcely a word was spoken. About half-past seven at night the quiet was broken by a great cry of "a sail! a sail!" and the captain ordered a light to be put up, and told all the passengers to shout for their lives. We all shouted, and an answer was immediately returned from the ship, which turned out to be the Star of Hope, under the command of Capt Talbot. All those who were in Captain Munro's boat were taken on board the Star of Hope, and were treated with every possible kindness. We told him that other boats were lying about, and Captain Talbot said he would look out for them. He cruised about, and placed men on the look-out. Between ten and eleven o'clock we picked up No. 3 boat, but, though the Star of Hope cruised about all night and part of the next day, nothing more was seen of the other boats. During all the while we were on board the Star of Hope we were treated with the utmost kindness by Captain Talbot. He gave up his own cabin for the accommodation of the lady passengers, and in his efforts to make those whom he had saved comfortable, he was generously assisted by his officers.

MARRIED.

HUSTED—HOVEY.—On the 19th of October, by the Rev. John G. Wilson, V. D. M., Mr. GEORGE S. HUSTED to Miss MARIA B. HOVEY, both of this city.

TOWN—THOMPSON.—On the evening of the 23d of December, by Rev. William B. Hare, JOHN EDWIN TOWN to ELIZABETH COLVIN THOMPSON.

DIED.

CREW.—On Wednesday morning, the 23d instant, Mr. JOSEPH CREW, Sr., aged 77 years.

Funeral from his late residence, Broad and Berks streets, on Monday, the 28th instant, at 11 o'clock A. M.

DEVENEY.—On the 23d instant, Mrs. SARAH DEVENEY, in the 64th year of her age.

The friends and relatives of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, No. 1903 Brandywine street, on Sunday afternoon next at 2 o'clock. Interment at the Monument Cemetery. **

FOLEY.—On the 23d instant, JOHN FOLEY, aged 34 years.

The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his son, Bartholomew Foley, Tay or street, above Biddle, on Saturday afternoon at 1 o'clock.

JOHNSON.—On the 22d instant, Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSON, aged 37 years

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 733 Jarvis street, on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. To proceed to Wharton Street M. E. Church.

McLEAN.—On the 21d inst., CAROLINE McLEAN, eldest daughter of the late John and Sarah McLean, in the 63d year of her age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her brother-in-law, John Gilkey, N. E. corner of Passyunk road and Catherine street, on Saturday, December 26, at 2 o'clock P. M.

MACDONALD.—On the 21st instant, WILLIAM MACDONALD, aged 36 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his mother, No 405 Stevens street, Camden, N. J., on Thursday, at 10 o'clock A. M.

PAUL.—At Clarksboro, N. J., after a lingering illness, DELIA PAUL, in the 57th year of her age.

The relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, Sixth-day morning at 11 o'clock.

AMERICAN

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Of Philadelphia.

S. E. Corner Fourth and Walnut Streets.

This Institution has no superior in the United States. 610

DR. WISHART'S COLUMN.

DYSPEPSIA CURED for $1.

One box of Dr. Wishart's Great American Dyspepsia Pills (which cost $1) are warranted to cure the most aggravated and long-standing case of Dyspepsia. Reader, we ask you a simple question. Is it wise to suffer all the agonizing torments of this wretched disease, when you can for the paltry sum of $1 be cured? They can be had of Dr. Wishart at his Great Family Medicine Store, No. 232 North Second street, Philadelphia, where an excellent and regular practising physician will be found in attendance, who can be consulted free of charge. Sent by mail on receipt of price.

For the benefit of the afflicted we insert the following certificates of cure which have been handed us for publication. Call and see the parties, and learn more concerning the efficacy of Dr. Wishart's wonderful remedies.

Dyspepsia! Dyspepsia! Dyspepsia!

I, Elizabeth Branson, of Brandywine, Del., formerly of Old Chester, Del., do certify that for one year and a half I suffered everything but death from that awful disease called Dyspepsia. My whole system was prostrated with weakness and nervous debility; I could not digest my food; if I ate even a cracker or the smallest amount of food, it would return just as I swallowed it; I became so costive in my bowels that I would not have a passage in less than from four and often eight days. Under this immense suffering my mind seemed entirely to give way. I had dreadful horror and evil forebodings. I thought everybody hated me, and I hated everybody; I could not bear my husband nor my own children, everything appeared to be horror-stricken to me; I had no ambition to do anything; I lost all my love of family and home; I would ramble and wander from place to place, but could not be contented. I felt that I was doomed to hell, and that there was no heaven for me, and was often tempted to commit suicide. So near was my whole nervous system destroyed, and so my mind, from that awful complaint, Dyspepsia, that my friends thought best to have me placed in Dr. Kirkbride's Hospital, at West Philadelphia. I remained there nine weeks, and thought I was a little better, but in a few days my dreadful complaint was raging as bad as ever. Hearing of the wonderful cures performed by Dr. Wishart's Great American Dyspepsia Pills and his treatment for Dyspepsia, my husband called on Dr. Wishart and stated my case to him. He said he had no doubt he could cure me. So in three days after I called and placed myself under the Doctor's treatment, and in two weeks I began to digest my food, and felt that my disease was fast giving way, and I continued to recover for about three months, and at the present time I enjoy perfect health of body and mind, and I most sincerely return my thanks to a merciful God and Dr. Wishart, and to his Great American Dyspepsia Pills and Pine Tree Tar Cordial, that saved me from an insane asylum and a premature grave. All persons suffering with Dyspepsia are at liberty to call on me or write, as I am willing to do all the good I can for suffering humanity. ELIZABETH BRANSON,

Brandywine, Del., formerly of Old Chester, Delaware.

DR. WISHART'S Office, No. 232 N. Second street, Philadelphia

Dyspepsia! Dyspepsia!

DR. WISHART:—I have been a constant sufferer with Dyspepsia for the last eighteen years, during which time I cannot say that I ever enjoyed a perfectly well day. There were times when the symptoms were more aggravated than at others, and then it seemed it would be a great relief to die. I had at all times an unpleasant feeling in my head, but latterly my sufferings so much increased that I became almost unfit for business of any kind; my mind was continually filled with gloomy thoughts and forebodings, and if I attempted to change their current by reading, at once a sensation of icy coldness in connection with a dead weight, as it were, rested upon my brain; also a feeling of sickness would occur at the stomach, and great pain to my eyes, accompanied with which was the continual fear of losing my reason. I also experienced great lassitude, debility, and nervousness, which made it difficult to walk by day or sleep at night. I became averse to society, and disposed only to seclusion, and, having tried the skill of a number of eminent physicians of various schools, finally came to the conclusion that, for this disease, at my present age, forty-five years, there was no cure in existence. But, through the interference of Divine Providence, to whom I devoutly offer my thanks, I at last found a sovereign remedy in your Dyspepsia Pills and Tar Cordial, which seem to have effectually removed almost the last trace of my long list of ailments and bad feelings, and in their place health, pleasure, and contentment are my every-day companions. JAMES M. SAUNDERS.

No. 453 N. Second street, Philadelphia, formerly of Woodbury, N. J.

Dr. Wishart's Office, No. 232 N. Second street, Philadelphia.

DR. WISHART has treated, in the past two years, over ten thousand patients for Dyspepsia in its various forms, and in every case, where the medicine was taken as directed, it made a perfect cure. A number of the above cases had been treated by the most eminent physicians in this country and in Europe, and pronounced incurable, but under Dr. WISHART'S treatment were soon restored to perfect health.

DR. WISHART'S Store and Office,
No. 232 N. SECOND Street,
Philadelphia.

N. B.—All consultations and examinations free of charge. 12 21

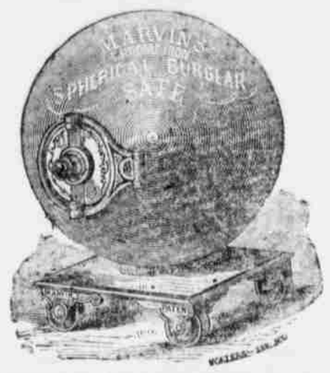
FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFES

A PERFECT SAFE.

MARVIN'S

CHROME IRON

SPHERICAL



BURGLAR-PROOF

SAFES

Perfect Protection Against Fire and Burglars at the LEAST COST.

They are also well adapted for the use of private families in preserving diamonds, jewelry, bonds, and valuable papers, as they can be made highly ornamental, and are too heavy to be carried away by burglars.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: THE PRICES OF THESE SAFES are very much below what has been heretofore charged for SAFES called "BURGLAR PROOF."

Please call and examine the

SPHERICAL SAFES.

Cannot be Sledged!
Cannot be Wedged!
Cannot be Drilled!

A PERFECT SAFE.

MARVIN'S PATENT

ALUM AND DRY PLASTER

FIRE-PROOF SAFES.

The leading machinists in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, New Haven, and Newark have been unable to drill the CHROME IRON after repeated trials.

In calling attention to an ENTIRELY NEW SAFE, the public may rest assured that it is done only after the most thorough and careful experiments on it for more than a year past, during which time we have spared neither pains nor expense to attain PERFECTION.

$16,000 in Money, Valuable Books and Papers perfectly preserved through the Fire of July 20, 1868, at Dove's Depot, South Carolina, in one of MARVIN'S SAFES, owned by

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The Place to Get a Good Dinner,

OR OTHER MEAL AT REASONABLE PRICES.

Bill of Fare, Wines, Liquors, etc., of the best

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AMUSEMENTS.

For additional Rets, Fun Notices see Second Page.

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This VAST, the LARGEST and most SUBSTANTIALLY BUILT in the American continent, is being finished in a style that will rank it as

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It will be to the DECIDED ADVANTAGE of those desiring Skating Rink Season Tickets to examine the MANY SUPERIOR ADVANTAGES THAT THIS RINK POSSESSES OVER ALL OTHERS.

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Also his improved Shoulder Seam Pattern Shirt, which has given such universal satisfaction, can be measurement. 12 21 1mbp

OFFICE OF CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA, No. 54 WILLIAM Street, New York, December 15, 1868.

The Coupons of the FIRST MORTGAGE SIX PER CENT. BONDS OF THE CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, due January 1, 1869 will be paid in FULL in GOLD COIN, on presentation thereafter at the Banking House of Messrs. FISK & HATCH, No. 5 NASSAU Street, New York city.

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Persons willing to contribute to the building fund of this society will please send their donations to either

F. RATCHFORD STARR, President,
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LOST.

LOST OR TAKEN BY MISTAKE, AT Sparks's Toy Store, No. 1008 Chesnut street, a Lady's SABLE MUFF. A suitable reward will be given if left at No. 1529 ARCH street, or at the Toy Store. 12 23 3t

LOST—CERTIFICATE OF OLD CITY LOAN No. 1618, for one hundred dollars, in the name of Mary F. Reeves. Application will be made for the issue of a new certificate. 12 3 1mfm*

LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

ESTATE OF JOHN HOCK.

The widow of said decedent, FRANCISCA HOCK, has filed her petition with appraisement of personal property to the amount of $256 which she elects to retain under the act of April 14 1851, etc. and that the same will be approved by the Court on SATURDAY, January 9, 1869 unless exceptions be filed thereto. THOMAS J. CLAYTON,

12 24 thsu 3t Attorney for Petitioner.

MERRICK & SONS

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WILLIAM WRIGHT'S PATENT VARIABLE CUT OFF STEAM-ENGINE.

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CHRISTMAS COLUMN

THE MISTLETOE KISS.

A CHRISTMAS SONG.

Winter is weary! and winter 'a drear!
Cousin Annette, do you think it's true?
There isn't a month in the long, long year
But sings when I'm summoned away to you!
Though yellowing leaves in the path are sad,
And mournfully echo our travelling feet;
Still something says to my heart, be glad!
For love is an evergreen-plant, my sweet!

Dull December's a mournful theme!
Cousin Annette, do you think so?
There's nothing so drear as the dreary scheme
Of winter's sorrow and winter's snow.
Let fanciful poets indulge in grief,
And every woe in the world repeat;
But love has been at his tricks, the thief!
And stolen a heart, and regret, my sweet!

Berries on holly proclaim 'tis cold!
Cousin Annette, I am warmer thus;
A hand and a waist if my arms enfold,
The hand and waist will be cozy, puss!
For here we can sit and defy the wind,
Though panes are rattled with blinding sleet,
And happily one of us thus may find
That winter is best for us both, my sweet!

Mistletoe grows on the oak, they say!
Cousin Annette!—she is fast asleep,
But this is a dangerous game to play,
For wandering rogues may on tiptoe creep.
The mistletoe's beckoning over her head,
My fluttering heart, you must cease to beat;
Sleep soft! while over the floor I tread—
And wake at the touch of my lips, my sweet!

Winter is bringing the travellers home!
Cousin Annette, have I cause to fear
Lest one loved better than I may come
To claim the hand that is resting here?
The falsest women are fair as you,
And lips as pretty have sworn deceit;
But on my honor I'd swear you true—
As true as the rose at your breast, my sweet!

Winter is long! ay, winter's long!
Cousin Annette, is it time to go?
Perchance the lover and love-sick song
May melt forever with winter's snow?
The dearest thoughts in the heart lie deep
Through snows of winter and rose-time heat,
But if your memory tries to sleep,
Remember the mistletoe kiss, my sweet!

LAYING THE GHOST.

AN ENGLISH CHRISTMAS STORY.

This is the story of two or three connected incidents, not quite every day, which befell me, Hugh Livesay, a few years ago. Or, in more concise words—and ghost stories being the proper thing at Christmas—this is the story of the laying the ghost of—*a difficulty*.

At the time I introduce myself to you, I, Hugh Livesay, son and heir of Henry Livesay, Esq., of Holber Holt, Leicestershire, was an undergraduate of Christchurch, of three years' standing, spending his 'long' with his uncle, his mother's brother, Mr. Smith Pentland, solicitor, The Close, Southwich. I had many grander relatives, especially on my father's side; none other who had so much of my respect as this provincial lawyer with more than a provincial reputation. I don't boast of it, for I have not seen many men who could afford to look down upon Smith Pentland; I have seen as few who ventured to do it. To bring one proof of his superiority—he had to meet the clever man's supreme difficulty of bearing with incompetency, and he subdued it thoroughly.

Nevertheless, where he saw youth, and health, and intellect—it was his theory that opportunity should be measured apart—he was not easy to satisfy: the idle found him a hard taskmaster. In these respects my uncle was fairly content with me, but he was one of those who love to resort to argument for the sake of discovering what their opponent is made of. I am saying nothing for or against the practice, simply that he followed it. And a 'avorite course with him was to challenge us university men.

'The question is, are not you specialties?' he said, one day over our after-dinner wine.

You may picture my uncle a fine old figure, with great ridges of brows below an abundance of white hair, refined, almost gentle eyes, but marked caustic mouth, with somewhat large lips. There were those who went in fear of my uncle's sarcasm, but they did not fare best with him. 'The question is, are not you specialties?'

'Now you have put a hard case, sir,' said I. 'Because, although it is not the truth, it is next to it. To my mind no man is more capable than your better sort of Oxford man.'

'That is, put your Oxford man into an unusual and difficult position, he will come out of it more creditably than your ordinary man?'

'I think so, sir.'

'It is contrary to the received notions, Hugh.'

'But I do think it.'

It was one pleasant feature in my uncle's intercourse with young men, that he treated them as possibly his equals in intelligence, if not in judgment. And this without at all risking his dignity. The consequence was that young men tried to talk up to him.

'Seriously, don't you think you are too finished an article for common uses? I have my doubts of you, Hugh, although my own boy is just going to Cambridge.'

'I wish you could put one of us on his trial,' I said, not consenting to his opinion. 'Me, since no one else offers.'

'I'll take you at your word, Hugh,' said my uncle, suddenly. 'Mind—if you don't wish to do what I ask, say so: I shall respect your scruples. I want you to go to a gentleman's house in the neighborhood—it is just the case you desire, that I should make a real use of you—and take an inventory of the property on his premises.'

There is no doubt I was a great deal dismaved—my uncle's unusual and difficult position had certainly not taken this form to my mind.

'He is in a degree a friend of mine; but what more influences me, he is a great friend of great friends of mine. One of these will advance him money for present necessities, but requires a bill of sale on his furniture and horses and carriages as security. It is to be arranged for as early and privately as possible. Now there is not a clerk in my office I can trust as I ought to be able to trust you. My clerks contract a habit of reticence, I know, but they are as likely as not to betray that their errand is something sinister and unusual in their very effort not to do so. In fact, if a gentleman were to be found for such work, he is what is wanted. And you say Oxford men are so capable;' my uncle pushing back his chair, and looking sharply at me as he ceased speaking.

'You would like me to undertake it?' said I, dubiously.

'If you would, you see me out of a difficulty. However, if you at all object, there's an end. I'm thinking for the ladies of Mr. Guest's family mostly. You wouldn't, you know, want to mention your relationship to me or anything of that sort: you may not even see any of the family—although, honestly, I think you will.'

In spite of what he said about there being an end to it if I objected, yet, as he went on enumerating the fors and againsts, I saw which way his wishes tended. Besides, it struck me half the trial might be in seeing whether I could overcome my reluctance. So I made up my mind.

'Well, I will do my best, sir. To-morrow do you say? I suppose it's chairs and tables I'm to value. How am I to know what to call 'em,' and I laughed without much satisfaction; 'or whether they be worth shillings or pounds?'

'As to calling them,' said my uncle, looking pleased, 'there'll be a list there ready for you. Your aunt and Flo might initiate you into prices—an evening's amusement provided for you all.'

That seemed likely to be the only agreeable item in the account. Florence kindly took a great deal of the burden off her mother, and we two made famous progress—considering a chronic flirtation between us of some years' standing.

However, next morning, when fairly started behind a good horse for my twelve miles' drive to Cullerton House, affairs took a different complexion. The business itself did not trouble me much; what I did not know I could arrive at by audacious guessing, and reference to *Florence* on my return. For the rest, was I not to demonstrate the capability of the Oxford man by the very fact of my tutored ability to carry off awkward circumstances? On my arrival at Cullerton House, a place of some pretensions, I sent in my card and a note my uncle had written, speaking of me as a gentleman whom he employed confidentially. Waiting in a well-lined library for further directions, with a new sense of strangeness to such a place, I smilingly recurred to my uncle's advice not to go quite as for a morning call. By-and-by Mr. Guest made his appearance, very hurried and embarrassed.

'Mr. Livesay, I believe,' referring to my card, which he held in his hand. 'Come upon—ah—Mr. Smith Pentland's business.' I bowed. 'How would it do to begin here at once?' he went on to say, with the air of a man screwing up his courage to taking the first uncomfortable header, but only equal as yet to dabbling in the water. 'It may be as well to—exercise a little artifice. You are waiting for me here, you—ah—understand. And if the servants come in——'

'There is occupation for some minutes of waiting on these shelves, sir,' said I, gravely.

'Exactly, Mr. Livesay. Then here is a list for your guidance. I will return in a few minutes.' And to get himself out of the room so quickly appeared an almost astounding relief to him. Completely beaten though he was by the present humiliating situation, one could see that by nature he was arrogant and somewhat overbearing. I could well understand what my uncle spoke of as Mr. Guest's perfect inability to keep within his income; for to him the small but very necessary economies of life would probably seem paltry and degrading. However, he had bought a contrary experience, and was now paying for it.

We young fellows are more apt at detecting the absurdities than the hardships of such situations, and only behave well about them because, as men of the world, we do not, in our phraseology, go in for the embarrassing. But in rather an odd way was I to feel the pathos also. In going through the list prepared for me, I could not fail to perceive here and there a blotch of ink, hinting very sensibly at tears spent in the writing. It was the work of a lady—one of the guests themselves, probably. Should I see her? and how would she take it? Was anything to be made out from her workmanship? I set myself to examine it, but whether or not I have small penetration into character, it told me little. There was clear arrangement certainly, and completeness, if that went any way—and it did, when one thought also of the blurred ink spots.

Voices outside warned me to put an end to my speculations, and made haste to be ready for Mr. Guest's return, which was only a degree less flurried than his first entrance. 'I think, Mr. Livesay, if you would follow a plan——' Which plan, untoided with much hesitation and diffusiveness, had evidently been prepared for him outside.

It was that luncheon should be ready in an hour in the dining-room. Mr. Guest was meanwhile to conduct me upstairs, as it for a little attention to my toilet after my journey. 'And the rest you can carry in your mind as you pass through. A very handsome bird, as you remark, and well stuffed.' We were now in the hall and a servant was passing. 'John, are the ladies in the breakfast-room? Come, and be introduced to my daughters, Mr. Livesay.'

I could see that this, done the more effectually to mystify the servant, was bitterer work than any. He betrayed it by the very sharpness of tone, momentary as it was, in which he immediately after furnished me with certain information—as if to warn me not to presume upon an introduction that could not be avoided, but which went for nothing in the ordinary sense. I dare say the cautious, almost shy circuit my eyes made of the room and its inmates was ascribed by Mr. Guest to my sufficient sense of all this. Miss Alice Guest, the younger of the two ladies of the family, was sitting in a spiritless attitude by the fire: Miss Guest herself, a girl of about twenty, was writing at the table. And, although there were traces of tears on her face, and she could not help looking downcast, yet she was sufficiently composed to think for the best, and try to be conciliatory, as the most politic course. She was not quite pretty, but altogether nice; had nice soft, gentle ways—which did not in the least prevent her, as I was not long in finding out, from being the ruling power in the house. Indeed, with no one else did there seem to remain any judgment or endeavor. I felt for her very keenly when, upon her father appealing to her for the explanation of something in the inventory not quite clear to either of us, she came across to us and pointed out what we required quite patiently and intelligently, although all the while her poor hand trembled so she could scarce turn over the leaves. I very much liked the kind honest eyes that met mine in a momentary glance; I very much wished they had been less troubled.

And I decidedly wished myself well out of the room long before I had finished. The father was querulous, yet deprecatory; the girls sat on in an awkward silence. A young fellow of about eighteen looked in at the door; his father's introduction drew from him a stiff, hostile bow; turning on his heel he went out, closing the door with a bang; there was a dull anger shown towards me by all—by all except Miss Guest. I grew to feel almost as if the aggression was mine; I said within myself that whilst my uncle had undoubtedly acted wisely and kindly by the Guests, he had not shown much consideration for me. True, he had professed to make it entirely optional, but then——

Going through with Mr. Guest's programme, I reached the dining-room and luncheon.

'Now do, Dick, do,' I heard Miss Guest say, from outside the door. 'He is very well, indeed he is. It can't hurt you to sit down to luncheon with him. It's because of the servants, you know. Do it to please me, Dick. I don't want you to talk if you can't,' she added coaxingly—coming in as she spoke; Dick treating me to his anathemas pretty freely as he followed her.

The color flew into her face at sight of me, for certainly she had not meant me to be of her audience. I was sorely tempted to carry it with a high hand towards Mr. Dick, but I kept before me the especial reason of my uncle's choice, and recovered myself in time. I readily forgave him when I heard, as I did afterwards, that he was expecting his commission, when this unfortunate crisis in his father's affairs put off his expectations indefinitely, even if worse did not follow. It was natural he should confound me with this misfortune. The younger sister did not show herself. 'Alice has the headache, papa,' said Miss Guest, in answer to her father, as he too joined us. I guessed that I had as much to do with her absence as any indisposition.

But we had not taken our seats when a carriage rolled up the drive. 'Miss Bailey, papa!' Miss Guest exclaimed. 'She will have been into Lorton, and of course has come on here knowing it to be our luncheon hour.'

I quite understood their involuntary glances at me, and felt it incumbent on me to offer to retire. I offered to do so in so many words, without any preamble or reason alleged other than the real one.

'Certainly not,' she said, with the essential politeness of a kind nature. 'We could not think of it.' I still protested my willingness.

'It would be rude, and it would not be preferable even,' she replied, smiling a little, her straightforwardness equal to my own. Well, it is the irresistible tendency, where it is young men and women who are concerned, for these things to become directly personal.

'True, there are the servants,' said Mr. Guest, with an irritable glance in survey of me, fretting his hands nervously one within the other. 'And Miss Bailey won't see much in our having a—stranger to luncheon.' Words that could not have been better framed to lack the genuineness and spontaneousness of his daughter's reply.

Miss Guest's first alarmed exclamation was justified. Miss Bailey had calculated upon the luncheon hour, and besides developing a very fair appetite for the material viands set before us, also developed a quite remarkable craving after what ladies term 'news.' 'Well, Frances, what's the news?' was nearly her first question.

Miss Guest colored as she professed her ignorance, probably thinking, it struck me, what the answer to-morrow might well be. So Miss Bailey proceeded herself to impart sundry intelligence, in which Miss Guest, carrying off her secret trouble bravely (she could not keep back a preoccupied sigh now and then), feigned much interest; satisfied so that her father was not called upon. We appeared to be successfully tiding over the mal-apropos visit, until, as luck would have it, the lady's inquisitiveness was directed towards me. Then I quite laid for everything to come to grief.

'Ah, I suppose, Mr. Livesay, you are a stranger to this part of the country?' said she, catching quickly at words that implied as much. She was what I call a dreadful woman; well preserved, fifty or so, with a face placid, yet shrewish; smiling benevolently on you with her eyes, but her mouth in contradiction.

I said I did not know much of the country. 'But perhaps you mean to get acquainted with it? Perhaps you are thinking to settle down amongst us?'

I said I was simply on a visit, and Miss Guest contrived to get the conversation into a different channel—but not for long.

'You find the air keen here, don't you, Mr. Livesay?' said Miss Bailey, upon a discussion of the weather giving her an opening. 'I'm sure I did. But then I'm a native of Devonshire, and you may come from northward.'

I wished Devonshire had kept her as I said that, on the contrary, I had always lived more to the south.

'In London, perhaps?'

'Bless the woman!' I thought. 'I'll try the truth—if that will stop her.' Hesitating a moment between Leicestershire and Oxford, I chose the latter. As it turned out, an unfortunate choice.

'At the university? Ah! At which college would it be? Christchurch? ah! She had a nephew, such a dear fellow, but he was at Brasenose. Did I know him?—Dawson, Frank Dawson? No, I didn't? Well, perhaps she might be able to bring about an acquaintance. Oh, Frances!' turning to [Miss Guest, 'Alice Dawson has had the sweetest photograph taken.'

'Has she?' said Miss Guest, with the slightest drooping of the eyelids.

'Oh, the most charming portrait!' blandly beaming on us all. 'You have not seen my niece, [Mr. Livesay—my niece, Alice Dawson, dear Frank's sister? She was staying at Southwich a month ago. If you were riding or driving Harford way, and looked in on my little snuggery, I might, now, be able to give you an introduction.'

Through all this questioning and my corresponding answers—for, once brought to book, I had plunged boldly *in medias res*, and talked Oxford to any extent, as deeming the truth safest, from being least open to suspicion on either side—as it went on from one assertion to another, Miss Guest's eyes had opened wider and wider, and even young Dick was roused from his moodiness. For all their caution, I caught them signalling their amazement at my audacity to each other with their eyes—and, I thought, also the relief my ingenuity, playing on Miss Bailey's credulity, brought them. But when it came to the proffered introduction, accompanied by all Miss Bailey's reserve of blandness, I thought they certainly must have exploded with laughter; the better I kept my countenance the more I tried their gravity. As for Mr. Guest, he looked the reverse of amiable all over at what he took to be my effrontery. At length Miss Bailey proposed departure. They all accompanied her to the carriage, but whilst Mr. Guest remained for a parting word or two, Miss Guest and Dick made a speedy escape back into the hall. Chancing to be near the door, I had the fortune a second time to overhear them

'Oh! Dick!' said she.

'Oh! Fanny!' and they went off into suppressed laughter, one against the other.

'Did you ever hear a chap cram like him?' said Dick, suspending his laughter only for the words.

'Dear Frank!' said she, as soon as she could get breath. 'And dear Frank's sister! But don't let us be stopping here.' And giving themselves a minute to recover themselves they came in.

I purposely caught Dick's eye, and he walked to the window as the sole resource against a second explosion; for being, as you will have observed, a young fellow quick to stand upon his dignity, of course he could not willingly demean himself to exchange mirth with a common clerk! But kind, thoughtful Miss Guest, quick to believe that kindness was meant, could not let it pass without an acknowledgment of my good nature and promptness to avoid embarrassment for them. And she knew well, none better, how to thank without admitting too much. I felt it some return for the inevitable disagreeables of my work only to have had it in my power to put her in so much better spirits; this was just what her fine insight taught her, and by what she emphasized her thanks. She asked if she could be of any assistance quite cheerfully, and even conversed upon general topics a little. She only ventured on a passing allusion to my daring inventions—for as such she wholly regarded them—I was half sorry to know it—from beginning to end—over the luncheon-table, and that of the demurest.

'You appear, Mr. Livesay, to be quite familiar with Oxford; even more so than with Southwich,' and in spite of herself, a smile lurked somewhere about her pleasant face.

'I—I—in fact, Miss Guest, I—I was apprenticed at Oxford.'

(When I came to this point in telling the day's proceedings to my uncle, he laughed ten minutes off, and then admitted that I had extinguished him. 'As of course I should,' I affirmed. 'Merely from the result of a high-class education—which would, as a plain fact capable of being argued, be a recurrence to first principles and the simplest tactics.' When my uncle informed me my assurance, as he was pleased to call it, wanted no further elaborating.)

I achieved my reply to Miss Guest in my gravest manner; but she turned away, biting her lip, and, I could see, doubted my gravity. just as I had detected the *arriere pensee* in hers. I was strongly impelled to disclose the whole truth about myself, but the fear of compromising Mr. Smith Pentland restrained me until Mr. Guest and discretion entered together.

So I brought my business to a conclusion, and I drove away from Cullerton House and the Guests, feeling that I had also brought to a conclusion a strange experience for which nothing certainly in my life had prepared me, which branched off from it in an odd sort of way, without any kind of connection with it other than the slight accident of Mr. Smith Pentland's unpremeditated request, and which at once passed into the catalogue of simple remembrances.

True, after I left Southwick I once or twice made inquiries for the Guests in my letters to my uncle. But the subject was no longer interesting after he wrote that there had been a revival in their fortunes—an old maiden aunt—some relative or other, dying and leaving them no end of a fortune. 'And,' said my uncle, 'to see Mr. Guest was enough to know that no odor of impending bankruptcy came now between the wind and his nobility.' My few hours' acquaintance with the gentleman taught me all that my uncle would convey, and I was confirmed in my first reading of his character.

Christmas came, and was, as in duty bound, spent in the home at Holber Holt. We had an excessively good time of it; such a good, jolly time that nothing short of the wedding of my great chum, Tom Stopford, and the positive necessity he laid on me of acting as his best man, could have induced me to quit home for the Stopfords' place in Sussex. Once at Hetton Park I found myself involved in festivities of a week's duration. These over, my return was still further delayed, because the good faith of Tom's brother Bob was—at least he said it was—implicated in the securing me for a grand ball that was to come off at Grill Hall—the residence of some new comers to that part of the county, whose favor Bob evidently sought. They had only not been of the company at Hetton because they were from home at the time. From what I heard on different sides, the Masons were city people, very rich, and without children. But the attraction for Bob, and others of the fellows as well, was certain two fair nieces whom they had met at Grill during the shooting season, and who were again the Masons' guests. The brother had also lately joined Bob's regiment, and spent every farthing of his allowance, and probably something over.

Poor Bob was very spooney, and made me his confidant. He used to moralize frightfully, with a comic face, but not quite taking it all the same. 'I'm a younger son, Livesay, and younger sons don't go down with mammas and aunts—especially where there's money. Hang money, I say! There's Tom's wife, as jolly a little girl as ever a fellow wants to pet him and think him perfection. Would she have fallen in love with me? Not she. And yet she isn't a bit in the world mercenary. She wouldn't have been *allowed*, my dear fellow. It is all *managed* for them. Oh, women are kittle cattle to deal with.' And Bob's weed went out of the window, and we sat on in a rather sentimental silence.

'So, as I said before, if you'll accept the Masons' invitation, you do me a kindness,' he continued, as soon as he could descend to practical matters. 'You are credited with being a catch in the matrimonial market, and we younger sons are only looked pleasant upon when we have bigger fish in tow. Mrs. Mason was proudly pleased when she saw a possibility of getting Mr. Hugh Livesay. She doesn't fall into ecstacies, you know—quite goes in for the refined style of thing. But she's the deuce and all to come at. It was grand, I assure you, quite grand, to see how she manœuvred for Frank Carpenter, the swell who married old Mason's niece. These girls belong to her own people. Come, say you will go!'

Seeing that a frost had set in, to the probable stoppage of all hunting for some days, and that I had still a fortnight of my vacation before me, I said that I would do the obliging, and stay for the ball. Only he wasn't to make a fool of himself.

'Don't you, that's all,' exclaimed the wildly grateful dragoon. 'But I say, do any amount of flirting with all or any, only don't cut me out with Alice.'

'How am I to know which is Alice? They don't go about labelled, do they?'

'She's the younger. Besides, she's—oh, she's so much prettier!'

'Very well, then; if I——'

'Shut up, now, will you?' said he, fetching me a tremendous blow in the back, in apprehension of my chaff.

We were late in reaching Grill on the night of the ball, and dancing had commenced. When Bob took me up to Mrs. Mason, I felt convinced I must have seen that lady before, so familiar to me seemed her well-formed features and stately carriage. As Bob had predicted, she was very gracious, and kept me in conversation until the conclusion of the dance in progress, when we entered, and she offered to find me partners. And if there was manœvring in it at all, it was very skilful, for she was very careful to introduce me to three or four of the prettiest girls in the room, and only finished with her eldest niece.

Radiant for trouble unburdened from her though she was, bright and beautiful as, say what you can, good fortune will make people, yet I knew her on the instant. The broad forehead, the good honest eyes, the sonsie face, I could not mistake; although there were jewels now in the fair hair, and every circumstance was so contrasted. And she knew me.

'Mr. Livesay—Miss Guest—' Mr. Mason called his wife's attention from us, and so, perhaps fortunately, the surprise of recognition on Miss Guest's side and the surprise and confusion on mine escaped her notice.

In a sort of desperation of embarrassment I asked for the next quadrille, and she, in equal bewilderment, assented. But as the minutes gave her a better comprehension, she clearly came quite to expect me to withdraw from the position. However, I stood my ground doggedly, half resenting it, although she, of course, could only think me guilty of an unwarrantable breach of privilege. The impression on her mind would be that I had used my remarkable powers of invention and a sufficiently gentlemanly exterior to obtain admittance into society for which by condition I was not qualified. She, however, must submit to go through the dance with me, but she did so in a manner so cold and constrained as to show that she could be her father's daughter in spite of the sweetness of her disposition.

I took it as most decidedly a matter of course that I should be believed, but yet, as you can well think, it was so difficult a subject to approach that not for some minutes could I satisfy myself how to begin. 'Miss Guest,' I said, all possible solicitude in my voice, 'I am aware appearances are against me.' Certainly by her manner she showed no intention of contradicting me. 'I beg of you to suspend judgment until I have been heard in explanation.'

'Most decidedly some explanation is required,' she replied, looking haughtily down, and being at no pains to conceal her annoyance.

'If I may be allowed to take you to Mrs. Mason when this set is over, I am sure I can satisfy—you,' I was going to say, but substituted 'her.' She made no reply: I could not tell whether I had at all shaken her in her bad impression of me.

'I assure you I have done nothing a gentleman might not do. I wish you could think I am speaking truth.' I had waited for a favorable interval in which to say it, growing more and more eager for what she might answer. She looked up at me quickly, with one of those sudden relentings, half-capricious and wholly sweet and kind.

'I can't quite know yet. I think you are.'

'Thank you,' I replied, warmly. 'I esteem myself already more than compensated for this momentary misconstruction.' Apparently she noticed nothing of my exceeding earnestness, looking straight before her with grave eyes and mouth.

I was not quite to escape a scene, however. Opposite us I saw Mr. Guest, regarding us with the greatest astonishment. To confirm himself he had to resort to his eye-glass, and upon what he saw, went hurriedly and with a face of extreme displeasure to where Mrs. Mason sat. I was fervently thankful, as much for his sake as my own, to see that he had sufficient command over his indignation and disgust to reserve his accusation until he had drawn her from the crowded ball-room. The dance over, I was just going to suggest a search for him when he touched me on the arm and peremptorily desired a word with me.

'And if you will allow me,' he added, with freezing politeness, 'I should prefer to have Miss Guest under my own care.' Taking his daughter on his arm, he stalked out of the room, I following, half-angry; also, such is the force of attendant circumstances, with something of the air of a culprit. In a small room at the back was Mrs. Mason, looking—anything but 'proudly pleased.' 'Comfort yourself, my dear woman,' I thought; 'it *is* me. We'll soon have it right. And then—we'll see.' By Jove, though, it began hot, and I came out in a character in which I hardly knew myself; something new it was to hear patiently such words as were now addressed to me by Mr. Guest.

'So, sir, perhaps you will explain by what imposition you have contrived to obtain admittance into Mrs. Mason's house?' He was so arrogant, that really if it had been any one but Miss Guest's father I must have taken my revenge in chaffing him.

'I might well take offense at your tone, Mr. Guest——'

'I simply wish to know, before I ask you to relieve us of your presence, how you obtained admittance into my sister's house?'

'By the express invitation of Mrs. Mason herself,' I replied, as temperately as it was in human nature to reply to a question worded so insultingly. 'As a friend of Mr. Robert Stopford's, of whose family I am now a guest.'

'That is no answer at all. How am I to tell how and where you made Mr. Stopford's acquaintance? I have had a sample of your ingenuity before, Mr. Livesay, if that's really your name. It is my opinion you are nothing more than an adventurer, sir; a low adventurer.'

He was rapidly talking himself into a rage, and I confess to a considerable degree of heat in my own answer to this. I drew myself up with angry contempt.

'My name is Livesay, I beg to inform you—I am not in the habit of assuming false names. My father is a gentleman of standing in Leicestershire. With my uncle, Mr. Smith Pentland, I believe you are well acquainted. I was staying at his house when I made a call upon you, I admit in a rather singular character. But it was at Mr. Pentland's request, and solely because none of his people of business whom he could send on an affair so private were at liberty.'

'Ah! I quite understand you. You will hold no threats over me, though. A gentleman need not be ashamed to have been in difficulties, although it might be convenient at the time to keep it quiet. You won't threaten me!' I could not get a word of disclaimer in edgeways, so wrathful was he. 'It is more than ever my opinion that you are nothing but an adventurer. I saw something of your inventive powers then, remember!'

'There was no invention about it, Mr. Guest. I was, and am still, studying at Oxford.'

Miss Guest's face had been entreating her father this long while. 'I think Mr. Livesay is to be believed, papa,' she half-timidly interposed.

'Frances, I am surprised you should have so little sense of propriety.'

Miss Guest, wincing under her father's severity, and reddening violently, made a minute study of her bouquet. I meant after this to exact a price for the affront put upon me, and so again recovered my temper, and strove for a peaceful solution.

'With what *will* you be satisfied, Mr. Guest? With Mr. Stopford's word?'

'I don't vouch for all Mr. Robert Stopford's acquaintances.' Poor Bob! if he had only heard.

I made a gesture of impatience.

'Is there no one from your neighborhood here, Mr. Livesay?' asked Mrs. Mason, who would be only too pleased to have me verified, and yet retained her caution. 'My brother is naturally desirous of proof; you need not take it as a personal matter. There is Lady Duncan Knox?'

'Lady Duncan? Oh I am quite ready to be confronted with Lady Duncan Knox.' A little scornful I allowed myself to be, now that I saw my way out of the muddle. 'I'll go into the ball-room, if you please, and you separate yourself from me—it shall all be plain now—and call Lady Duncan's attention to me. I think you will be satisfied, Mr. Guest.'

Of course the proof tendered was unimpeachable; and seeing me so confident, Mr. Guest cooled down with rather ludicrous rapidity, and indeed was altogether nonplussed. Like a great many people, who mostly mind themselves in the end in a predicament because of it, he had determined, with or against reason, that a certain thing *was* to be. He had decided that I was an impostor: and now that it appeared more than doubtful, he was not very comfortable.

'It is so difficult to know whom to believe,' he said, almost apologetically, as he led the way. Miss Guest, with Mrs. Mason, followed us at a short interval. I caught a side-glimpse of her, talking with, for her, unusual impetuosity to her aunt. Once in the room the proceeding showed itself to Mr. Guest yet more equivocal.

'Really, we might, I think, dispense with any test,' said he, condescendingly.

'I prefer that Lady Duncan should be spoken to, I insist upon it, indeed.' I hadn't half done with Mr. Guest, you see. I might want him again.

At once more assured and more uncomfortable, he went across to my lady; I standing alone for some minutes, outwardly with an air of unconcern, inwardly with an absurd sense of being surveyed. Soon I became aware that Mr. Guest was guiding the lady through the crowd to where I stood.

'How do you do, Mr. Livesay?' said she, coming up with extended hand, 'how do you do? Mr. Guest happened to mention your name, and I begged him to escort me to you. We are only just from Rome, and I am dying for home news. Is Mr. Norris going to stand for the county?'

Lady Duncan Knox was a merry voluble woman of five-and-thirty or so; very friendly with my mother, and a relative of my father's besides.

'I don't think Mr. Norris will stand.'

'Then your father, perhaps?' said she, with immense interest.

'No, I think not. My father prefers his present seat for the borough.'

'And when shall I see my dear Mrs. Livesay in town? Not before the House sits, I fear?'

'I suppose not; my mother is not fond of town, you know. They are arranging the sets; may I have the pleasure of this dance with your ladyship?'

'Me?—I'm engaged—five deep. Perhaps a later one.' And she moved away.

I looked hastily over my shoulder to where I knew Frances Guest was, and upon impulse she smiled back her pleasure. I was making towards her when her father detained me.

'Mr. Livesay, I don't know how to frame my excuses to you for my rudeness. It is little atonement I can make except in the way of words.'

'None is needed, sir,' I answered promptly; because, of course, I wasn't going to make it a quarrel now. And indeed he hadn't spoken badly. We are all liable to slight mistakes, Mr. Guest.'

'I can't forgive myself so easily; I am afraid I was too much annoyed to be just. We do hear of such deceptions nowadays that really I took the alarm too quickly. It seems almost an insult after what has passed, but if at any time you are down at Southwich, and you like to call at Cullerton House, you will be sure of a welcome, and—you will do me a favor.'

I thanked him heartily, and proved my sincerity by escaping to Miss Guest as soon as politeness allowed. I found it would be late before she could give me a dance, but, half in pique, I stood out until my turn came.

'You are not dancing much to-night,' she said, as we took our places.

'Sometimes I like the other thing best.'

'I'm afraid,' said she, in a tone of vexation. 'It's because the evening has been so disagreeable for you.'

'It's very good for you to distress yourself about me. But it has not been altogether disagreeable, indeed.'

I could not help speaking significantly; somehow, the tone had got into my voice, and I could not get it out.

'What you did, Mr. Livesay, you did in kindness, too.'

'But I do take some blame to myself. You see, Miss Guest, it is not right for a man to put himself in a false position. At least—well—I don't know, I'm sure. I once argued with my uncle, and we left off precisely where we began.'

'But you did it in the kindest way, and with the kindest intention.'

Well, you know, it becomes really pleasant to accuse oneself when one has so charming an advocate, self-enlisted. I said some foolish words of the sort. She blushed, but she had such a staid, demure way of listening to gallant speeches that really one was tempted on to words more and more meaning.

'I say, weren't you flirting last night, Livesay?' said Bob next morning, striving to organize certain piecemeal recollections.

I put him off with some light speech, for you may be sure I should not make his confidence reciprocal. But I don't mind admitting now that I left the Masons' ball with a very gravely damaged anatomy. I must have been hit deeply, for the frost broke up, and I still preferred Sussex for the remainder of the vacation. However, it is reassuring to know that I could take interest in the furtherance and enjoyment of the different social courtesies between Hetton and Grill Hall. Nor was this all. On the next occasion of seeing Mr. Smith Pentland I expressed such pleasant remembrances of my last autumn's visit that he invited me to repeat it in the coming one. But I am almost ashamed to say that, once at Southwich, I still more adroitly contrived to be invited on to Cullerton itself. For the partridge-shooting, my host said—my own object I did not talk much about then.

You won't say I sped badly, though, when I tell you that the Christmas saw me at Grill Hall, the accepted and approved suitor of sweet, dear Frances Guest.

Ah well, that is five years ago. My wife sits by my hearthside to-day, with sweeter, dearer ways than ever, I think.

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The Case of Georgia.

From the Boston Post.

Governor Bullock, of Georgia, has given in his "testimony" before the Reconstruction Committee on the condition of his State, or what it needs, and how the needs ought to be answered. He opposes Mr. Sumner's plaster for the sore he describes. That is a bill which totally sets aside the existing government, framed as it was by the very men now engaged in an effort to destroy it. It also proposes a provisional government in its place, subject at all points to the control of Congress. It further provides that the Legislature shall be again called together, for sifting out every member who declines to take the iron-clad oath required by the Reconstruction law, relative to participation in the Rebellion. Then Governor Bullock is to be made the supreme local ruler, and to call to his aid as much of the strength of the army and navy as he may think necessary for his and his party's purpose.

As to the winnowing of the Legislature by compelling its members to take an oath other than the one prescribed by the Constitution of the State, now fairly adopted by the people and practically accepted once by Congress, it is only a shameless pretext to get possession of that body for the radical managers. They were entirely foiled by the action of the Legislature in declaring that negroes could not under the Constitution of the State hold office, and this is their revenge. Under what rule was it that negroes were deprived of their seats in the Legislature? Under none other than that of the Constitution itself, which a radical convention had framed, and which was voted for by every negro present in the convention. The clause originally reported by the committee on this subject permitted negroes to hold office as well as whites, but on putting it to a vote of the convention a majority of that body struck it out, and twelve negroes voted for the motion to so strike it out. The Constitution being framed in this way, it was submitted to the people, and ratified and generally accepted. To make the matter sure, the Constitution on its construction was submitted to the Chief Justice of the State and other distinguished lawyers, who did not hesitate to give their opinion that negroes were not allowed, under it, to hold seats in the Legislature or any other office in the State.

Now how otherwise could the Legislature act in deciding the question, than as the State Constitution expressly directed it to act? It had, in each branch, full control of the qualifications of its members to decide on their sufficiency; the Constitution told them that negroes were not qualified; and the decision was made accordingly. Then starts up Governor Bullock, with the other radical marplots and managers to back him, and claims through Mr. Sumner's bill that the Fourteenth Amendment is yet to be adopted by Georgia, when it has been again and again declared that Georgia has adopted it. Also that, in order to do it effectively, it must be done subject to the condition that "no change shall be made, infringing the rights of suffrage of any class of citizens." Now if anything is plain, it is that the Fourteenth Amendment concedes to each State the right to abridge the franchise; but its action is balanced by the provision that all such abridgments are to be accompanied with a corresponding representative disability in Congress. Can Congress thus go behind its own offer, and undertake to punish—if punishment it is—a State for presuming to proceed on the strict terms of its proposal? We suppose that this Congress can, for it has shown that it can do anything that boldly illustrates inconsistency and usurpation. It of course can claim to have the same right to annul an amendment to the Constitution which it has to trample on the body of that instrument.

Consider, again, that Congress has once accepted this entire action of Georgia by declaring it back in the Union and its representatives elect entitled to their seats. But not even this clear stultification impresses the proposed outrage any deeper on the mind of Mr. Sumner, and on the minds of all who follow him in supporting his bill. As for the statements of an unsettled state of society in Georgia, in which Bullock and Sumner seek to hide their motive, it is most emphatically contradicted by the leading citizens of the State and by the respectable organs of public opinion there. The blacks are doing well, and will do still better if let alone. They are used only to load and fire the radical guns, and the symptoms abound that they are well tired of it. Is Reconstruction really accomplished, as the Chicago platform announced, or is it to become a synonym for resurrection, practised at every session of Congress?

Coal.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The N. Y. *Times* wants foreign coal admitted to our market free of duty; and we are inclined to concur in the suggestion. Except for revenue, we can perceive no reason for taxing an article so bulky in proportion to its value as coal is, especially after its production from our own mines has been so fully developed as with us. Now, as we have done on former occasions, we urge Congress, in revising the tariff, to make coal free of duty, and thus silence a clamor which has the slightest possible foundation. We believe coal is usually cheaper in this city and throughout our country than almost any other article in general use; and we doubt that it would be generally cheapened by taking off the duties. It bothers us to say how the Government is to be supported and the national credit maintained after the *World* has been gratified with "a free breakfast table," and the *Times* with free fuel to cook the breakfast; but do let us stop this noise about taxing the fuel of the poor!

Yet, if we are to co-operate with the *Times* in its crusade, we must ask it to acquire some knowledge of the matter in controversy, and discuss it with some respect to the essential facts. We couldn't get on well with an ally who talks as recklessly as the following:

"The duties on bituminous coals must be laid, not for revenue, for they are almost prohibitory, but merely to 'protect' half a dozen large capitalists in Pennsylvania, and a few hundred workmen at the expense of our whole seaboard.

"Within a short journey of New York, in the neighboring province of Nova Scotia, there is a mine of bituminous coal called the 'Acadian Mine,' which can lay its coal aboard ship for $2·25 (gold) per ton, and make $1 profit. It is believed—such is the cheapness of water transit—that it could lay down this coal in New York for $5 (currency) per ton, and still make a handsome profit. The coal is of a quality almost equal to cannel coal. An inferior American bituminous coal sells here at $14 per ton, and anthracite has been selling at $12, while this 'Acadian' could be sold here at $6 but for the tariff.

"To the poor and the great masses with small incomes, a tax of more than $6 a ton on coals—for a profit has to be paid to the retailer on the duty as well as the original cost—is an enormous burden."

—All the comment that we choose to make on these assertions is contained in the following citation from the tariff of the duties now charged and paid on imported coal, viz.:—On bituminous coal and shale, 81½ per ton; on all other coal, 40 cents per ton. Artemus Ward once timidly suggested that a joke now and then might not be out of place in a comic paper. That seemed to us a sound proposition. On the same principle we submit that a sovereign contempt for facts ought not to be the only qualification of an assailant of the policy of protection.

P. S.—Will the *Times* please to locate in Pennsylvania the "half a dozen large capitalists" who make so much out of the duty on bituminous coal? We have always supposed the Cumberland mines were in Maryland.

The Restoration of the Constitution South and North.

From the N. Y. Herald.

All great struggles bring certain destructive elements to the surface against which a governing code, modelled in time of peace, cannot provide. When the life of a nation is threatened new laws spring to the front, born of the moment and strong in their warlike birth. The country which has not the stamina to follow their lead takes a long step backward—fails to hold its own in the race of civilization. So it has been in our own late struggle. Two systems, both gigantic, grew side by side under the most favorable circumstances for both. One was ultra-liberalism, the other was feudalism nursed by the forces which have been brought so vigorously into action in this century. Side by side they grew under the same Constitution until the parasite threatened to destroy the tree and, as a consequence, wreck both. Then it was that both forgot the Constitution. The South rudely trampled it under foot. The North also ignored the p imal law, and, finding it entirely unsuited to cope with that which threatened to blot out the Constitution and the nation at the same time, did not hesitate to deal blows at the Rebellion, even though the sabre strokes clipped the great code at the same time. Doing this, we saved the nation. Who is there in all the broad miles we hold who would have preferred the salvation of a piece of parchment?

We were without a fundamental code during our Rebellion, and we have been without one since the war closed; for there is no Constitution existing so long as any one of its parts is ignored. The non-recognition of one item implies the right to ignore another, and so on until it vanishes away on the principle of secession. In all this we of the Union did well; but it has required an immense quantity of common sense to preserve our liberties during this epoch. Nothing but the general diffusion of education, the power of the press, the vigor and governing force of the elements of progress existing among us, have prevented the loss of our form of government and the adoption of a military dictatorship. The war threw the Constitution back upon the people, and no greater proof exists of the strength of republicanism than the fact that for seven years we have held our old form of government safely on deposit. We have patiently awaited for the men whom we have placed in power to follow our desires, like true statesmen, and restore it, subject to the alterations which we alone have made by the sword. When any Congress refuses this it becomes unrepublican and dictatorial, forcing, as it were, its own desires into the foreground and basing laws upon them, instead of simply shaping our wishes into legal form. It is only in monarchical countries that the people are supposed not to know what they want or what is best for them. If Congress forgets this, then have we taken the first step towards a firmer centralization. To preserve our liberties we must sweep aside the dross that has accumulated in Washington. The men there must fall or recognize immediately as a first principle that no man can lead the people.

With the same good sense which has enabled us to march on in our national greatness, ignoring for a period our fundamental law, we now feel that the moment has arrived for a complete restoration of the law, both South and North. If there still exist brains so weak that they think that the former feudal principles of the South can trample upon and bar the mightiest progress in the world's history, they are scarcely worthy of living to enjoy the product of electricity and steam. We are beginning to be narrow and protective in our governmental policy, and consequently retrograde. Does the North wish to drag the ruins of eleven States after it as it marches onward? It is scarcely good sense, when those States are now willing and able to march themselves, and consequently help instead of retard us. To become powerful again they must have a period of rest and progress. Is any one so mad as to think they will go back to look for support to the Old instead of giving entrance to the mighty New now knocking at their doors? The great ultimate object of our struggle should be to make the nation homogeneous. Who can say that there are two ways of doing it—one for the North and one for the South? Last year ten of the Southern States gave less than thirty-three millions of revenue to the national support. This does not indicate prosperity, either local or national, and is scarcely a third of what they should yield when free from political disturbances. There is but one way to mend all this—let them alone and give them a chance to go to work. As there is but one direction for them to move in, they will take it, and we shall be astonished to see how rapidly they will fall in with us and help develop the wonderful riches of the Western World.

But what is the first step towards all this? It rests more with ourselves than with them. It is in the hands of Congress—a Congress which must now remember that the people have elected them and demand that the mandates of the people be obeyed. The nation has endured the war, its corruptions, and the natural oscillations which are the results of war. Our common sense has carried us safely through where our Congress would have wrecked us. Now we require the restoration of our fundamental code of laws, for the time has passed when national safety required it to be held in abeyance. To-day we have but one branch of government—our Congress. The Executive is a nullity; the Supreme Court bows to a power it cannot face. Let Congress now evolve the powers which the nation forced it to absorb; give back to the Executive branch its full authority; commence by a revocation of the Tenure-of-Office bill; show confidence in one of the first principles of our Government—the division of it into three separate branches. The people wish this, and their wish is significant of action if it be refused. The danger is past. The nation during that danger set the Constitution aside, for it was a code of peace. War was thus filled with energy. Peace has now returned to us. It requires not the concentration of war. Therefore we, the people, ask for that which is best suited to it—the Constitution, South and North.

General Grant and His Cabinet.

From the N. Y. Times.

The newspapers, as a matter of course, continue the construction, and reconstruction, of General Grant's Cabinet, with unabated confidence and zeal. But the public faith in their work is less absolute than of old, and somewhat less than could be desired for the credit of journalism.

Nobody now, so far as we are aware, pays any attention to the talk of the newspapers about General Grant's Cabinet. It is announced, from day to day, that the Hon. Mr. So-and-So is *certainly* to go into it; whatever else may be doubtful, *that* is certain at all events:—and the most certain of all has hitherto been the assertion that Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, was to be Secretary of the Treasury, or anything else that he might prefer. But even this rumor has been a good deal damaged by a letter from Mr. Washburne himself, in which he says:—

"So far as political position is concerned, I am content with the one assigned me for the ninth time by a generous, confiding constituency. I know but little touching Cabinet appointments, and take no stock in any newspaper talk assigning me to this or that position. The most I desire is to see General Grant's Administration a success, and see all rights of all men vindicated and protected—to see an honest, economical, dignified administration of the Government, bringing to the people peace, quiet, happiness, and prosperity."

We have not the slightest doubt of the entire sincerity of these just and patriotic sentiments, which reflect more real credit on the man who feels and utters them than would any appointment in the President's gift.

We are inclined to believe that nobody in the country knows anything concerning the composition of General Grant's Cabinet. We do not believe he knows much about it himself—or that he has given it much thought as yet. Beyond all question his mind dwells upon it more or less, but rather, we imagine, in the way of studying the wants of the Government and the necessities of the public service than in weighing the claims of individuals or the respective weight due to rival localities and interests.

But it is curious how many things are "settled" for General Grant already—not only without his assent, but without his knowledge. We are told every day of matters which are fixed, not by General Grant but for him, by persons and parties that know a good deal more about these matters than he does, or ever can, and whose chief anxiety is to give him the trouble of attending to them when he comes into power. It is perfectly well settled, for example, who is to succeed Mr. Smythe as Collector, either upon his translation to the Russian mission (for which it is understood "things have been fixed" in the Senate), or upon the advent of the new President. Some half-dozen of the principal missions abroad have been disposed of, and their prospective incumbents are busy with their grammars and dictionaries, or with the cut of their garments, in confident expectation of what is soon to be their fate.

All this is very interesting and very innocent. Playing at administering the Government is as diverting to political parties as "puss in the corner" to children—and it is very much the same kind of game. But while General Grant contents himself with merely looking on, we fancy it won't amount to much. He is evidently taking a rest before his work begins. He does not act in the least like a man who is eager for office and the purple—longing to grasp the sceptre and wield the power the people have placed in his hands. He has the bearing rather of one who feels the weight of the great responsibilities that will be upon him soon enough, and who values every day of deliverance as a day of relief. His troubles and perplexities will come soon enough, and will be weighty enough when they do come. He will not anticipate the day of their coming, nor will he shrink from their weight when they do come.

It will not be wise for anybody to set his heart very strongly on seeing any special man in any special place—still less on seeing himself there. Those who expect least will be least disappointed. We do not think General Grant at all likely to accept dictation from any quarter, or from cliques and factions of any kind. He is much more likely, in our judgment, to act on all public questions, and especially on all questions of appointments, with as much of independence and of reliance on his own judgment as our system of government allows to any man in office, which is not, it must be confessed, at best excessive. We are inclined to think that he does not intend to spend all his time, while President, in deciding on the rival claims of applicants for office, or in listening to the history of the local political contests and quarrels of Squashtown and Podunk. He is much more likely to put at the head of the various departments of the Government men in whom he has faith, and then to leave the settlement of all these matters mainly to them. In this way, and in this way only, can he hope for time to smoke his after-dinner cigar, or to relieve his bed-room from a crowd of office-seekers in time to get a short nap before breakfast.

Gen. Grant and the Tenure-of-Office Law.

From the N. Y. World.

The plan reported in our Washington despatches on Tuesday for keeping the fetters of the Tenure-of-Office act riveted upon the new President, shows that the spirit of distrust, intrigue, and selfish greed of spoils is stronger than the simulated respect for General Grant. The cormorants that have so long battened on the national revenues are not disposed to relinquish their food. Having kept themselves in place by binding one President, they do not mean, if they can help it, to release his successor.

On one of the first days of the session General Butler surprised the country by introducing a bill for repealing the Tenure-of-Office law; but he pressed it with no zeal; nobody else has taken it up; and there seems a tacit understanding that no action shall be taken on it until just before the adjournment. To those who understand General Butler's character, his motives are transparent. He wants a Cabinet office, and his bill was his method of notifying the new President that he is willing to bury his former aggressive enmity if General Grant will make him one of his confidential counsellors. The *passage* of the bill was not necessary for conveying General Butler's notification, its *proposal* sufficing for that purpose. Its author wishes to keep himself in a position to treat President Grant as he has treated President Johnson. When Mr. Johnson succeeded to the Presidency after the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, General Butler went to him with professions of friendship and confidence, and asked to be appointed Secretary of the Treasury. This application was slighted. Butler soon after became the rancorous enemy of the President, and has never failed to assail him with every weapon he could lay his hands on. The attitude of Butler towards President Grant will be determined by similar considerations. He has publicly offered to bury the hatchet, but with an implied understanding that the pipe of peace shall be lighted with a Cabinet commission. Butler will take no further steps until he shall have satisfied himself whether his wishes are likely to be acceded to.

If Butler stood alone in such aspirations this manœuvre of his would be of little consequence. But the motives that actuate him are shared by most of the controlling men of the Republican party. Leading members of the two houses do not all want appointments for themselves, but they want them for friends, for dependants, for tools, for men who can make money by defrauding the revenue and will give them a slice of the profits. Most of the leading Republican Congressmen are regular brokers of offices, this trade being a chief source of their influence and emoluments, and one of the means by which they reimburse themselves for their heavy electioneering expenses. We do not know what it will cost Senator Morgan, of this State, to get himself reflected; but whether it be thirty thousand, or fifty thousand, or a hundred thousand dollars, we suppose the outlay will be made on the strictly mercantile principles which are so well understood by this "eminent merchant." What with the money spent last fall in promoting the election of members of the Legislature, and the money it may be necessary to expend this winter in bribing members or buying off competitors, a new term in the Senate will cost him a very considerable sum; but a sum that he can easily afford, if the whisky operators in the internal revenue service shall keep their places and continue to be his tools. Scores of other leading members of Congress have similar interests in their own localities. And as they would all have a much surer thing in keeping tried and expert dependants in office than in running the hazard of getting new ones appointed and confirmed, it is obvious that the *interests* of this whole class are adverse to a repeal of the Tenure-of-Office law.

It is easy to understand, therefore, how powerful are the interests which are openly or secretly hostile to a release of General Grant from the fetters which bind President Johnson. Such outs as hope to be appointed, or get their friends appointed, would of course wish the new President to be restored to the liberty which was possessed by all of Mr. Johnson's predecessors. But so long as they are in doubt whether they or their rivals will carry off the prizes, they will stand by preference in the same position as General Butler; anxious to promote a repeal, if a repeal would bring grist to their mill, but ready to oppose it if it would inure to the benefit of their competitors. The whole tribe of spoils-hunters, of every shade and stripe, are accordingly waiting for General Grant to show his hand. And he seems in no hurry to relieve the agony of their suspense.

The Ins, comprising Senators and Representatives who prefer to remain in Congress, and whose friends are now in office, have hit upon a plan which, in their estimate, is very promising. A bill for the repeal of the Tenure-of-Office act is to be passed in the last days of the session, in order that Congress may adjourn before the expiration of the ten days allowed the President for its consideration. It is fancied that President Johnson will not give it his approval. In the first place, he and General Grant cordially hate each other, and it is supposed that he will not be forward to promote a measure which would be for General Grant's advantage. He of course could not veto the repeal after having vetoed the original bill. If time were allowed him, he would quietly suffer it to become a law by the lapse of ten days. But by its passage at too late a stage for that, it will be really defeated by its authors, and the responsibility shifted, as they calculate, upon the shoulders of the President. A shallow device! inasmuch as nobody could fail to see through it. But the President might have other motives besides his dislike of General Grant for not wishing to sign such a bill. The Tenure-of-office act was passed for no other purpose than to annoy and restrain him; and he might regard its repeal, just at the moment he was about to quit office, as a fresh repetition of the insult. It would be telling him to his face that its whole object was personal. It would be like asking a man who had been set in the stocks to take up the timber and carry it away when his punishment was ended, as if no other person could ever be bad enough to furnish a use for such an instrument. The only way the President could avoid letting his enemies thus degrade him, would be by neglecting to act on such a bill neither signing it nor vetoing it, but leaving it to become a law, or not, according to the space allowed by Congress previous to adjournment.

It is probable that many Republicans will oppose the repeal on pretended grounds of principle, thus shielding themselves from General Grant's censure while maintaining the restraints upon his authority. This can be done with some plausibility, as many of them pretended to act on principle in its passage. But the real motive will be distrust of General Grant. They know that he was not an original Republican; that he was never a Republican by conviction or preference, otherwise than as he might have believed it better to accept the reconstruction measures than to keep open the quarrel. They know also that he has a scarcely disguised contempt for the whole unclean herd of busybodies and office-seekers who make politics their trade and seek to live on the public plunder. He does not consort with such men when he can well help it; he despises their intrigues and their rigmarole speech-making; and their fear is so great that he will give a preference to army officers, that Senator Edmunds, a day or two since, introduced a bill forbidding the appointment of military officers to the civil service. This bill, and the formidable opposition in the Senate to the transfer of Indian affairs to the War Department, so strongly recommended by General Grant, betoken their distrust of him—a distrust which is justified by the facts that he was never at heart a Republican, and that his phlegmatic, unexcitable temperament unfits him for ever becoming a blazing radical. The genius of the Republican party is fanatical agitation, and there is hardly a man in the country less cut out for a fanatic or an agitator than General Grant. It will be little short of a miracle if this man and the Republican party get on well together.

LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.
Estate of WILLIAM SAGER, deceased.
The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the account of GEORGE W. FRANCE and JOSEPH H. SUBERS, Executors of the Estate of WILLIAM EAGER, deceased, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of his appointment, on MONDAY, January 4, A. D. 1869, at 3 o'clock P. M., at his Office, No. 403 WALNUT Street, in the City of Philadelphia.
12 24 thstu6t* WILLIAM D. BAKER, Auditor.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.
Estate of JOSEPH and THOMAS WOOD, deceased.
The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the account of THOMAS S. and JOSEPH WOOD, surviving administrators of the estate of JOSEPH WOOD, deceased, and of MARIA WOOD and THOMAS S. WOOD, administrators of estate of THOMAS WOOD, deceased, acting as agents for the heirs of said estates, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested, for the purposes of his appointment, on MONDAY, January 4, A. D. 1869, at eleven (11) o'clock A. M., at the office of Wood's Estate, No. 18 S. THIRD Street, in the city of Philadelphia.
12 24 thstu6t* WILLIAM D. BAKER, Auditor.

IN BANKRUPTCY.
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, S. S., at Philadelphia, the 11th day of November, 1868.
The undersigned hereby gives notice of his appointment as Assignee of WILLIAM H. BAKER and THOMAS FARLEY, copartners, trading as BAKER & FARLEY, who have been adjudged Bankrupts on creditors' petition by the District Court of said District.
GEORGE J. HENKELS, Assignee,
Nos. 1301 and 1303 CHESNUT Street,
Philadelphia.
To the creditors of said bankrupts and all whom it may concern. 12 14 f3s

HENRY KLINGLER VS. LAURA KLINGLER. C. C. P., S. S., 1868. No. 57. In Divorce.
Laura Klingler—Please take notice that the Court has granted a rule on you to show cause why a decree *a vinculo matrimonii* should not be decreed in this case, returnable Saturday, December 26, 1868, at 10 o'clock A. M., personal service having failed on account of the absence of respondent
THOMAS K. FINLETTER,
Attorney for Libellant.
12 15 6t*

SHIPPING.

LORILLARD'S STEAMSHIP LINE
FOR NEW YORK.
On and after December 15, the steamers of this line will sail at noon. Freight taken on accommodating terms. One of the Steamers of this Line will leave every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Goods received at all times on covered piers. All goods forwarded by New York agent free of charge except cartage.
For further information, apply on the pier to
8 28 6m JOHN F. OHL.

FOR LIVERPOOL AND QUEENSTOWN.—Inman Line of Mail Steamers to sail as follows:—
CITY OF LONDON, Saturday, December 26.
CITY OF CORK, Tuesday, December 29.
CITY OF BALTIMORE, Saturday, January 2.
CITY OF BOSTON, Saturday, January 9.
ETNA, Tuesday, January 12
CITY OF ANTWERP, Saturday, January 16
and each succeeding Saturday and alternate Tuesday at 3 P. M., from Pier 45, North river.
RATES OF PASSAGE BY THE MAIL STEAMERS
SAILING EVERY SATURDAY.

Payable in Gold.		Payable in Currency.	
FIRST CABIN	$100	STEERAGE	$30
to London	105	to London	35
to Paris	110	to Paris	40

PASSAGE BY THE TUESDAY STEAMERS VIA HALIFAX.

FIRST CABIN. Payable in Gold.		STEERAGE. Payable in Currency.	
Liverpool	$80	Liverpool	$35
Halifax	20	Halifax	10
St. John's, N. F.	40	St. John's, N. F.	20

by Branch Steamer. by Branch Steamer.
Passengers also forwarded to Havre, Hamburg, Bremen, etc., at reduced rates.
Tickets can be bought here by persons sending for their friends, at moderate rates.
For further information apply at the Company's Offices,
JOHN G. DALE, Agent, No. 15 BROADWAY, N. Y.
Or to O'DONNELL & FAULK, Agents,
No. 41 CHESNUT Street, Philadelphia.

NEW EXPRESS LINE TO ALEXANDRIA, Georgetown, and Washington D. C., via Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, with connections at Alexandria from the most direct route for Lynchburg, Bristol, Knoxville, Nashville, Dalton and the Southwest.
Steamers leave regularly every Saturday at noon from the first wharf above Market street.
Freight received daily.
WM. P. CLYDE & CO.,
No. 14 North and South Wharves.
J. B. DAVIDSON, Agent at Georgetown.
M. ELDRIDGE & Co., Agents at Alexandria, Virginia. 6 1

NOTICE.—FOR NEW YORK, VIA DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL.
EXPRESS STEAMBOAT COMPANY.
The Steam Propellers of this line leave DAILY from first wharf below Market street.
THROUGH IN 24 HOURS.
Goods forwarded by all the lines going out of York, North, East, and West, free of commission.
Freights received at our usual low rates.
WILLIAM P. CLYDE & CO., Agents,
No. 14 S. WHARVES, Philadelphia.
JAMES HAND, Agent,
No. 119 WALL Street, corner of South, New York

PHILADELPHIA, RICHMOND AND NORFOLK STEAMSHIP LINE.
THROUGH FREIGHT AIR LINE TO THE SOUTH and WEST.
EVERY SATURDAY,
At noon, from FIRST WHARF above MARKET Street.
THROUGH RATES and THROUGH RECEIPTS to all points in North and South Carolina, via Seaboard Air Line Railroad, connecting at Portsmouth and by steamers, Va., Tennessee, and the West, via Virginia and Tennessee Air Line and Richmond and Danville Railroad.
Freight HANDLED BUT ONCE, and taken at LOWER RATES THAN ANY OTHER LINE.
The regularity, safety, and cheapness of this route commend it to the public as the most desirable medium for carrying every description of freight.
No charge for commission, drayage, or any expense of transfer.
Steamships insured at lowest rates.
Freight received daily.
WILLIAM P. CLYDE & CO.,
No. 14 North and South WHARVES.
W. P. PORTER, Agent at Richmond and City Point.
T. P. CROWELL & CO., Agents at Norfolk. 6 12

STEAMBOAT LINES.

PHILADELPHIA AND TRENTON Steamboat Line.—The Steamboat LEVIN SHORES leaves ARCH Street Wharf, for Trenton, stopping at Tacony, Torresdale, Beverly, Burlington, Bristol, Florence, Robbins' Wharf, and White Hill.

Leaves Arch street Wharf.			Leaves South Trenton.		
Friday, Dec.	25, 9	A. M.	Friday, Dec.	25, 1	P. M.
Saturday, "	26, 9	A. M.	Saturday, "	26, 1	P. M.
Monday, "	28, 11	A. M.	Monday, "	28, 3	P. M.
Tuesday, "	29, 12	M.	Tuesday, "	29, 4	P. M.
Wednesday, "	30, 1	P. M.	Wednesday, "	30, 5	P. M.
Thursday, "	31, 1	P. M.	Thursday, "	31, 5	P. M.

Fare to Trenton, 40 cents each way; intermediate places, 25 cents. 6 12

FOR NEW YORK—SWIFT-SURE Transportation Company Despatch Swift-sure Lines, via Delaware and Raritan Canal, on and after the 15th of March, leaving daily at 12 M. and 5 P. M., connecting with all Northern and Eastern lines.
For freight, which will be taken on accommodating terms, apply to WILLIAM M. BAIRD & CO.,
1 14 No. 132 S. DELAWARE Avenue.

STOVES, RANGES, ETC.

NOTICE.—THE UNDERSIGNED would call the attention of the public to his NEW GOLDEN EAGLE FURNACE.
This is an entirely new heater. It is so constructed as to at once command itself to general favor, being a combination of wrought and cast iron. It is very simple in its construction, and is perfectly air-tight; self-cleaning. Having no pipes or drums to be taken out and cleaned. It is so arranged with upright flues as to produce a larger amount of heat from the same weight of coal than any furnace now in use. The hygrometric condition of the air as produced by my new arrangement of evaporation will at once demonstrate that it is the only Hot Air Furnace that will produce a perfectly healthy atmosphere.
Those in want of a complete Heating Apparatus would do well to call and examine the Golden Eagle.
CHARLES WILLIAMS,
Nos. 1182 and 1184 MARKET Street,
Philadelphia.
A large assortment of Cooking Ranges, Fire-board Stoves, Low Down Grates, Ventilators, etc., always on hand.
N. B.—Jobbing of all kinds promptly done. 5 10

THOMPSON'S LONDON KITCHENER, or EUROPEAN RANGE, for families, hotels, or public institutions, in TWENTY DIFFERENT SIZES. Also, Philadelphia Ranges, Hot-Air Furnaces, Portable Heaters, Low-down Grates, Fireboard Stoves, Bath Boilers, Stew-hole Plates, Boilers, Cooking Stoves, etc., wholesale and retail, by the manufacturers,
SHARPE & THOMPSON,
11 25 wfm6m No. 269 N. SECOND Street.

ENGINES, MACHINERY, ETC.

PENN STEAM ENGINE AND BOILER WORKS.—NEAFIE & LEVY, PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL ENGINEERS, MACHINISTS, BOILER-MAKERS, BLACKSMITHS, and FOUNDERS, having for many years been in successful operation, and been exclusively engaged in building and repairing Marine and River Engines, high and low-pressure, Iron Boilers, Water Tanks, Propellers, etc., etc., respectfully offer their services to the public as being fully prepared to contract for engines of all sizes, Marine, River, and Stationary; having sets of patterns of different sizes are prepared to execute orders with quick despatch. Every description of pattern-making made at the shortest notice. High and Low-pressure Fine Tubular and Cylinder Boilers, of the best Pennsylvania charcoal iron. Forgings of all sizes and kinds. Iron and Brass Castings of all descriptions. Roll Turning, Screw Cutting, and all other work connected with the above business.
Drawings and specifications for all work done at the establishment free of charge, and work guaranteed.
The subscribers have ample wharf-dock room for repairs of boats, where they can lie in perfect safety, and are provided with shears, blocks, falls, etc., etc., for raising heavy or light weights.
JACOB C. NEAFIE,
JOHN P. LEVY,
8 12 BEACH and PALMER Streets.

J. VAUGHN MERRICK, WILLIAM H. MERRICK, JOHN M. COPE.
SOUTHWARK FOUNDRY, FIFTH AND WASHINGTON Streets,
PHILADELPHIA.
MERRICK & SONS,
ENGINEERS AND MACHINISTS,
Manufacture High and Low Pressure Steam Engines for Land, River, and Marine Service.
Boilers, Gasometers, Tanks, Iron Boats, etc.
Castings of all kinds, either Iron or Brass.
Iron Frame Roofs for Gas Works, Workshops, and Railroad Stations, etc.
Retorts and Gas Machinery, of the latest and most improved construction.
Every description of Plantation Machinery, viz.: Sugar, Saw, and Grist Mills, Vacuum Pans, Oil Steam Trains, Defecators, Filters, Pumping Engines, etc.
Sole Agents for N. Billeux's Patent Sugar Boiling Apparatus, Nesmyth's Patent Steam Hammer, and Aspinwall & Woolsey's Patent Centrifugal Sugar Draining Machines. 6 30

CORN EXCHANGE BAG MANUFACTORY.
JOHN T. BAILEY,
N. E. corner of MARKET and WATER Streets
Philadelphia.
DEALERS IN BAGS AND BAGGING
Of every description, for
Grain, Flour, Salt, Super-Phosphate of Lime, Bone Dust, Etc.
Large and small GUNNY BAGS constantly on hand
8 12 2 Also, WOOL SACKS.

AUCTION SALES

BUNTING, DURBOROW & CO., AUCTIONEERS, Nos. 232 and 234 MARKET Street, corner of Bank street. Successors to John B. Myers & Co.
CLOSING SALE OF 1500 CASES BOOTS, SHOES, ETC., ETC.,
On Tuesday Morning,
December 29, at 10 o'clock, on 6, 9 months' credit. 12 23 4t

CLARK & EVANS, AUCTIONEERS, NO. 630 CHESNUT Street.
Will sell THIS DAY, Morning and Evening,
A large invoice of Blankets, Bed Spreads, Dry Goods, Cloths, Cassimeres, Hosiery, Stationery, Table and Pocket Cutlery, Notions, etc.
City and country merchants will find bargains.
Terms cash.
Goods packed free of charge 9 29

M. THOMAS & SONS, NOS. 139 AND 141 S. FOURTH STREET.
SALE OF REAL ESTATE AND STOCKS,
December 29, at 12 o'clock, noon, at the Exchange, will include—
ORSE-30, No. 967—Genteel Brick Dwelling.
ARCH, No. 731—Modern Residence.
FRONT (north), No. 347—Brick Dwelling.
ARCH, No. 276—Store and Dwelling.
WATER, Nos. 209 and 211—Store and Dwelling.
GROUND RENTS—$50 a year each.
HADDONFIELD, N. J.—Valuable Country Seat and Farm and Mill Property, 123 acres.
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY—39 Acres of Land.
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY—94½ Acres of Land.
TEXAS—403 Acres of Land
NEW MARKET Property, No. 812—Two Modern Residences and 4 Brick Dwellings.
MORTGAGES—$637 $4010, $4188.
Full particulars in catalogues. 12 24 3t

C. D. McCLEES & CO., AUCTIONEERS, No. 139 MARKET Street.
SALE OF 1600 CASES, BOOTS, SHOES, BROGANS, ETC.,
On Monday Morning,
December 28, commencing at 10 o'clock, we will sell by catalogue, for cash, 1600 cases men's, boys', and youths' boots, shoes, brogans, balmorals, etc.
Also a superior assortment of women's, misses', and children's wear. 12 24 2t

MARTIN BROTHERS, AUCTIONEERS.—(Lately Salesmen for M. Thomas & Sons.)
No. 429 CHESNUT St., near entrance from Minor.

THOMAS BIRCH & SON, AUCTIONEERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS, No. 1115 CHESNUT Street; rear entrance No. 1107 Sansom st

LIPPINCOTT, SON & CO., AUCTIONEERS, ASHHURST BUILDING, No. 240 MARKET St.

REAL ESTATE SALES.

PUBLIC SALE—JAMES A. FREEMAN, AUCTIONEER.—Lots, Vine street, between Twenty-first and Twenty-second streets. Under authority of an ordinance approved the 19th day of November, 1868, on Wednesday, January 6, 1869, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold, at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, the following-described real estate:—
No. 1.—Lot situate on the south side of Vine street and west side of Albion (late Aspen) street, containing in front on said Vine street 9 feet, and extending of that width southward 102 feet.
No. 2.—Lot situate on the south side of Vine street, and east side of Albion (late Aspen) street, containing in front on said Vine street 9 feet, and extending of that width southward 102 feet.
The said lots shall be sold separately or together, to the highest and best bidder, and for the highest price which may be bidden for the same. The consideration of such sale or sales shall be cash, or the 6 per cent. loans of the city. $50 to be paid on each at the time of sale, to be refunded on the execution of the deed.
By order of the Commissioner of City Property.
JAMES A. FREMAN, Auctioneer,
12 17 thst Store, No. 424 WALNUT Street.

LUMBER.

1868. SPRUCE JOIST. SPRUCE JOIST. HEMLOCK. HEMLOCK. 1868.

1868 SEASONED CLEAR PINE. SEASONED CLEAR PINE. CHOICE PATTERN PINE. SPANISH CEDAR, FOR PATTERNS. RED CEDAR. 1868

1868 FLORIDA FLOORING. FLORIDA FLOORING. CAROLINA FLOORING. VIRGINIA FLOORING. DELAWARE FLOORING. ASH FLOORING. WALNUT FLOORING. FLORIDA STEP BOARDS. RAIL PLANK. 1868

1868 WALNUT BDS AND PLANK. WALNUT BDS. AND PLANK. WALNUT BOARDS. WALNUT PLANK. 1868

1868 UNDERTAKERS LUMBER. UNDERTAKERS' LUMBER. RED CEDAR. WALNUT AND PINE. 1868

1868 SEASONED POPLAR. SEASONED CHERRY. ASH. WHITE OAK PLANK AND BOARDS. HICKORY. 1868

1868 CIGAR BOX MAKERS' CIGAR BOX MAKERS' SPANISH CEDAR BOX BOARDS, FOR SALE LOW. 1868

1868 CAROLINA SCANTLING, CAROLINA H. T. SILLS, NORWAY SCANTLING. 1868

1868 CEDAR SHINGLES, CYPRESS SHINGLES. MAULE, BROTHER & CO., No. 2500 SOUTH Street. 1868
1 1

T. P. GALVIN & CO.,
LUMBER COMMISSION MERCHANTS
SHACKAMAXON STREET WHARF,
BELOW SLOAT'S MILLS,
(So-CALLED), PHILADELPHIA.
AGENTS FOR SOUTHERN AND EASTERN Manufacturers of YELLOW PINE and SPRUCE TIMBER BOARDS, etc., shall be happy to furnish orders at wholesale rates, deliverable at any accessible port.
Constantly receiving and on hand at our wharf SOUTHERN FLOORING, SCANTLING, SHINGLES, EASTERN LATHS, PICKETS, BED-

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

CITY CRIMINAL CALENDAR.

Juvenile Thieves—A Dishonest Negro—Malicious Mischief—A Horse-thief Captured—Highway Robbery—A Burglar Caught.

—Three youths—Michael McGurk, James Sterling, and John Carpenter—yesterday jumped into a wagon belonging to Mrs. Welsh, a resident of the lower part of the city, and robbed it of confectionery, toys, and cider. Alderman Bonsall sent them below for trial.

—Some weeks since Alexander Johnson (colored) was employed by a lady in the Eastern Market to carry home some marketing. Instead of taking the articles as directed, he sold them. Yesterday the lady came across him at Eighth and Chesnut streets, and had him arrested. Being given a hearing before Alderman Beitler, he was committed to prison.

—Joseph Connelly was before Alderman Beitler last evening for smashing windows along Harmony court. His excuse was drunkenness. He was held to bail.

—Joe Walker is a negro. Joe has been living for a little while at Salem, N. J. A day or two ago he robbed a stable of a horse, some blankets, etc., and started on his way to Philadelphia. Arriving at Camden, he stabled the animal and brought the other articles to the city, where he disposed of them. Last night he was arrested at Sixth and South streets and locked up for the night in the station. This morning Alderman Carpenter sent him back to Salem.

—Last night Mr. Butterfield, residing on Hamilton street, while tramping along South street, was stopped at Front street by three fellows, one of whom snatched a watch from his pocket. He gave the alarm, and Policeman Leadbeater came along gave pursuit to the robbers, and captured Edward Carr, who has been committed by Alderman Carpenter for his appearance at court.

—John Mills belongs to West Philadelphia. Yesterday he was committed by Alderman Manie on the charge of highway robbery. It seems that ten days since Ephraim Jackson, while under the influence of intoxicating drink, was travelling through the Twenty fourth ward. Mills and another fellow met and volunteered to take him to his home. Instead of doing this they went through him for his watch and his pocket-book, containing many valuable papers. Mills admits the charge, and states that he and his accomplice after the robbery went to New York on a spree, and there tore up all the papers.

—Henry Wharton, Esq., lives on Main street, Chesnut Hill. At 1 o'clock this morning he was sitting reading in his sitting room, and heard some singular noise in the cellar. Directly a footstep ascended the stairs, and then, on reaching the landing, an attempt was made to pry open the door which separated the burglar from Mr. Wharton. That gentleman anticipating the design of the thief, stepped up, drew back the bolt, opened the door, and, to his utter astonishment, necked the intruder. Policeman Smith took him in charge, Alderman Beitler this morning sent the burglar, who gave the name of Henry Smith, to prison.

THE PRESS CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA—A MOVEMENT TO SECURE A CHARTER.—The "Press Club of Philadelphia," an organization of the journalists of this city, is about making an effort to secure a formal act of incorporation from the State Legislature. The interest of the members of the Club in its prosperity has undergone a very laudable increase of late, and out of this springs the movement in question. At a special meeting of the Club held yesterday, a draft of a charter was submitted for action, and after undergoing several amendments it was approved by the Club. The preamble of the proposed charter reads as follows:—

"*An Act to Incorporate the Press Club of Philadelphia.*

"*Whereas*, William V. McKean, D. Brainerd Williamson, Dr. Edward Morwitz, Albert W. Frick, Joseph H. Paist, Stephen N. Winslow, William J. Clark, Jr., Watson Ambruster, William F. Corbit, Joseph Robinson, Emerson Bennett, Francis Wells, J. Luther Riegwalt, John H. C. Whiting, and their present associates, have formed an association and established an institution located in the city of Philadelphia for the purpose of promoting harmony and good feeling, add to facilitate social intercourse among the representatives of the press, and to advance the interests of the profession of journalism; and

"*Whereas*, The said parties are desirous of being incorporated for the purposes of their association; therefore,

"Section 1. Be it enacted," etc.

The first section specifies merely the powers which are usually bestowed upon similar institutions.

The subsequent sections read as follows:—

"Section 2. The persons eligible to active membership in the said Club shall be paid attaches of the public press of Pennsylvania, either as proprietors, publishers, editors, reporters, contributors, or correspondents; also, editors and correspondents of newspapers abroad residing in Philadelphia. Provided, however, that no person not a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall be eligible to active membership in the said Club.

"Section 3. Persons who now are, or have at any time been, connected with the public press as proprietors, publishers, editors, reporters, contributors, or correspondents of newspapers and periodicals, and who are not eligible as active members, shall be eligible to honorary membership of the said Club; all persons not eligible as active or honorary members may be elected as associate members of the said Club; and honorary and associate members of the said Club shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of active membership, except that of voting or holding office.

"Section 4. Active, honorary and associate members shall be elected by ballot, in such manner as shall be prescribed by the by-laws of the said Club.

"Section 5. The officers of the said Club shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and a board of nine Directors, whose duties shall be such as may be prescribed in the by-laws; the officers and directors shall be elected annually, at such time as may be provided for in the by-laws, and to serve for the period of one year, unless sooner removed for cause; the President of the Club shall be ex-officio a member and President of the Board of Directors."

A committee, consisting of William V. McKean, Esq., the present President of the Club, and Messrs. William J. Clark, Jr., Watson Ambruster, Thompson Westcott, and A. K. Pedrick, was appointed to present the proposed charter to the Legislature for its action. The Board of Directors were also instructed to prepare a new set of by-laws, to be considered at the next business meeting of the Club, to be held in March, 1869. The Club at present numbers about eighty active members, has large and neatly-furnished rooms on Walnut street, above Seventh, and has collected a valuable library, consisting mainly of works of reference, history, and politics.

FINE ARTS.—We desire to call the attention of the admirers of the Fine Arts to the advertisement of A. S. Robinson, No. 910 Chesnut street, to be found in another column. Robinson has just received specimens of Dresden "Enamels" on porcelain; splendidly painted Photographs, perfect gems in their line; Chromos of superb touch and finish, and Engravings in endless variety, all of which are suitable for holiday presents. A visit to this magnificent establishment is sure to result in pleasure and profit.

THE EXERCISES AT THE NORMAL SCHOOL.—The Christmas anniversary exercises at the Normal School took place this morning at the school building on Sergeant street, above Ninth. They consisted of reading of Scriptures, singing of the scholars, declamation by Misses Birch, Steenson, and Bower, and physical exercises. Ex-President Shippen made a very feeling address on bidding farewell to the scholars. This was replied to by Miss Folwell.

THE SERVICES at the Cathedral to-morrow will be of the usual impressive character incidental to the great festival of Christmas. The music will be very interesting, consisting of a new "Te Deum," by Romberg, first time in Philadelphia; Hadyn's Mass, No. 4, in B flat; at the offertory "Adeste Fideles," and before the sermon, a new "Veni Creator Spiritus." Mr. Michael H. Cross, organist of the Cathedral, will direct the music.

A FAIR for the benefit of the African M. E. Allen Mission Church will commence this evening, at the Masonic Hall, on Eleventh street, below Pine, and continue during the holidays. The object is a worthy one in every respect, and we trust that our readers will contribute to its success, both by their presence and by liberal donations.

GONE TO THE BOTTOM.—The steamer Eastern Bird, which was sunk at Walnut street wharf, and which was in the process of being raised, sunk again to the bottom this morning. This mishap was occasioned by the snapping of the hoisting chain.

ROBBERY.—The residence of Mrs. Whittaker, on the northeast corner of Franklin and Wallace streets, was entered yesterday afternoon through the basement windows, and robbed of a valuable lot of jewelry.

SLIGHT FIRE.—The second-story of building No. 1318 Chesnut street was slightly damaged by fire at 11 o'clock last evening.

A HANDSOME INCOME.—The Fair for the Home for the Aged and Infirm of the Methodist Church has yielded over $23,000 to the treasury.

BUTLER.

His Opinion on Taxing the Bonds—He Grows Indignant and Uses Epithets.

Under date of the 16th inst., General Butler writes the following from Washington:—

My Dear Sir:—I am always happy to welcome just, manly, and considerate criticisms upon my public acts. Yours are so mingled with kindness and consideration that I were shameless to do otherwise. Let me assure you, however, that you are discussing a subject—finance—which you do not, and I do, understand to some degree; one upon which you do not even know the views I hold. I venture this assertion, because you say "Uncle Sam will never tax the interest on his bonds." That is precisely what he does do, and ever has done since the Rebellion. He has always taxed the income on the bonds, and I know of no other income from a bond but the interest. Do you? That was at first taxed at 1½ per cent., when we were selling the bonds; afterwards raised to 5 per cent. When we got through selling them we more than trebled the amount of tax, you see. Yet no man or paper lisped a word that this was repudiation or dishonest. And why? First, because it was neither; secondly and mainly, because, in fact, we only taxed the conscience of the holder of the bond—i. e., we taxed only the income which the conscience of the holder compelled him to swear he had when he made his return to the assessor. I saw, therefore, that the good and conscientious alone paid any tax on the income derived from bonds. I saw, too, that the number of those was getting less and less. I found from the returns that a just revenue from the bonds would be in 1864 and 1865, say $1,200,000; that at 1½ per cent. we got only $75,000, and in 1865 and 1866, when we should have had, say $1,700,000, we got only $133,000. That is, only one dollar in ten of income was returned when the tax was 1½ per cent. When the tax was raised to 5 per cent. on incomes I put the calculation somewhat thus:—If 1½ per cent. will make nine men in ten make false return of income on their books, what will 5 per cent. tax do? You can cipher it out by the "rule of three" at your leisure. I propose to make the income tax on the bonds 10 per cent., and why? Because they paid no tax. State or municipal, and I thought that taxation should be equalized. The howl of repudiation, dishonesty, swindling, was raised at once, and wherefore? I had only proposed to double the present income tax on the bonds. Congress had before trebled it, and not a word was said against the right or propriety of so doing. Again, resorting to the "rule of three," if doubling the tax is dishonesty, repudiation, and swindling, what crime was trebling the same tax? But when I proposed doubling the income tax only, how the rascals howled repudiation! Yet never a word when Congress *trebled* it. What, then, was the reason? Because the rascals did not care a copper for any income tax which only taxed the conscience of the holder of the bond. They laughed at the net which only caught gudgeons, but I determined not to be cheated, and therefore proposed to have my income collected by the Treasurer by withholding it from the coupon when he was called upon to pay the interest on the bond. That made everybody pay equally; none would escape them. How the rascals shrieked and yelled in agony about repudiation and dishonesty. Then the Sam Wards and gold gamblers were in travail for a candidate against me. Then Dana was put on the course. Then Hawley and Curtis wrote. Then Kilpatrick and every other scoundrel orated through the district, and the *Advertiser*, Springfield *Republican*, and New York *Times* lavishly launched leaden libels against myself and constituents. But in vain. The income tax, honestly collected, and it could not have been evaded, would have given upwards of $13,000,000, where we do not get $1,000,000 now. How many such candidates, newspapers, orators, and praters as we had interfering in the affairs of the Fifth District do you think the difference, $12,000,000, would and did buy to oppose my scheme of taxation? How much calumny and abuse from half-starved Bohemians would that sum bring to cry out repudiation, and praise the sacredness of obligations, of which not one of their own they were ever known to fulfil?

LATEST SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

For additional Marine News see Inside Pages.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 24—Arrived steamships City of London and City of Cork, from Liverpool, and Fah Kee, from Bermuda.

PORT OF PHILADELPHIA.....DECEMBER 24.

STATE OF THERMOMETER AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

7 A. M.....28 | 11 A. M.....26 | 2 P. M.....25

CLEARED THIS MORNING.

Barque Peddler, Troensegaard, Copenhagen, Workman & Co.

Schr F. R. Baird, Irelan, Cienfuegos, Madeira & Cabada.

Schr Annette, Wainwright, Halifax, J. Mason & Co.

Schr James Ponder, Hudson, Cardenas, I. Hough & Morris.

Schr Ida L., Bearse, Boston, D. Cooper.

ARRIVED THIS MORNING.

Ship Estrea, Edwards, from Bristol, Eng., via Madeira (where she put in as before reported), with railroad iron to Pennsylvania Railroad Co.

Steamship Volunteer, Jones, 24 hours from New York, with mdse. to John F. Ohl. Saw schr J. J. Spencer, for Mobile, going to sea at 8 P. M. yesterday.

Steamship Zodiac Hobart, 24 hours from New York, with mdse. to John F. Ohl.

Schr E. B. Wheaton, Little, from Boston.

Schr Zouave, Short, 1 day from Magnolia, Del., with grain to James Barratt.

Steamer Diamond State, Webb, 13 hours from Baltimore, with mdse. to A. Groves, Jr.

Steamer Bruce, ——, from New York, for repairs.

Steamtug America, Virden, from the Capes of the Delaware; brought up ship Astrea. Passed in the bay, barques Eliza Outen, from Liverpool, and L. G. Bigelow, from New Haven.

Correspondence of the Philadelphia Exchange.

LEWES, Del., Dec. 22.—A ship and two barques passed in this morning. Barque Jenny, for Bremen, went to sea to day. Barque Sarah B Hale, for Portland; brigs Lije Houghton, for do.; James Baker, for Cardenas; Auguste, for Hamburg; and schr J Ricardo Jova, for Cienfuegos, all from Philadelphia, went to sea yesterday. JOSEPH LAFETRA.

MEMORANDA.

Schr Ellen Holgate, Golding, hence, at Pantego, N. C., 15th inst., would load lumber to return.

WEDDING INVITATIONS, ENGRAVED IN the newest and best manner.
LOUIS DREKA, Stationer and Engraver,
9 15 No. 1033 CHESNUT Street.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

BOXES OF FINE STATIONERY,
INKSTANDS, a large assortment
WRITING DESKS, CARD CASES,
POCKET BOOKS, SCOTCH GOODS.
FINE ENGLISH PLAYING CARDS,
ENGLISH KNICK-KNACKS
DREKA,
STATIONER AND CARD ENGRAVER,
12 12 12s No. 1033 CHESNUT Street.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS!

WRITING DESKS,
A very Large Assortment,
From $1 50 to $35 00.
WALNUT, ROSEWOOD, MAHOGANY,
PAPIER-MACHE, AND LEATHER
BACK GAMMON BOARDS,
PORTFOLIOS,
SCOTCH GOODS,
And a variety of
FANCY GOODS AND GAMES,
R. HOSKINS & CO.,
No. 913 ARCH Street.
9 1mws8m Open Evening.

ESHLEMAN'S COLUMN.

ESHLEMAN
REMOVED TO
1004 Chesnut Street.
NEW LOT OF
Prince Teck Scarfs,
LORD STANLEYS,
ROMAN SCARFS
TARTAN PLAIDS.
Ladies' Tan Dog-Skin Gloves.
SELLING OLD STOCK OFF VERY CHEAP AT SEVENTH and CHESNUT.

ESHLEMAN
REMOVED TO
1004 CHESNUT Street,
NEW LOT OF
Prince Teck Scarfs,
LORD STANLEYS,
ROMAN PLAIDS AND TARTANS,
Ladies' Tan Dog-Skin Gloves.
SELLING OLD STOCK OFF
VERY CHEAP.
AT
7th and Chesnut.

THIRD EDITION

PARAGUAY.

Present State of Affairs—Report of Admiral Davis to Secretary Welles—The Instructions to the South American Ministers.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Instructions to the Paraguayan Minister—Letter to the Navy Department.

Despatch to the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24—The following has been received by the Navy Department:—

UNITED STATES FLAGSHIP GUERRIERE, MONTEVIDEO, Nov. 13, 1868.—SIR:—I have the honor to inform the department that this ship anchored in this roadstead on the 4th inst., having in company the ammas. The Quinnebaug and Pawnee arrived subsequently.

General McMahon is instructed by the Secretary of State to stop at Rio long enough to communicate with Mr. Webb, and also at Montevideo and Buenos Ayres to communicate with the consulate and legation at those places, and to ascertain whether the military obstacles to his (your) passage up the river which were heretofore apprehended have been removed. Communications on this subject have been addressed to the Governments of Uruguay and the Argentine Republic by the Minister Resident, Mr. Worthington, replies to which will probably be received to day or to-morrow. As soon as they are received I shall proceed to Paraguay on the Wasp, taking General McMahon with me. The Pawnee, Quinnebaug, and Kansas will go up to Panama, and rendezvous at Dialante, one of the passes, which will give me the command of the river, and there await further orders. I have communicated freely and fully with Mr. Worthington and Mr. Washburn, and my intercourse with both of these gentlemen has been satisfactory.

Bliss, according to the latest accounts from Paraguay, continues in the service of President Lopez, and is engaged in the preparation of a work on Paraguay. The rise of the rivers has fortunately begun this year nearly a month earlier than usual. But for this rise, and previous to it, it would have been impossible to take the Pawnee, Quinnebaug, and Kansas up the river, and even now the task is an arduous one, it being very difficult to convey twelve feet through some of the passes. The health of the squadron continues to be good.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
C. H. DAVIS, Rear-Admiral,
Commanding South American Squadron.
Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

The North German Shipping.

The United States Consul at Altona, in Holstein, writes to Secretary McCulloch that by recent improvements at that port there is a regular draught of water winter and summer to accommodate the largest mercantile ships. The Tamerlane, of Philadelphia, arrived at Altona Dec. 8, drawing 20 feet of water. This is a great improvement for those engaged in the North German trade, as hitherto all ships to Hamburg encounter lighterage, while they come to the port of Altona without breaking cargo.

Telegraphic Banquet.

NEW YORK Dec. 24.—Chief Justice Chase has consented to preside at a banquet to be given to Professor Morse at Delmonico's on the 29th inst. Amongst the distinguished gentlemen who will be present on the occasion are Edward Thornton, Esq., the British Minister; Professor Goldwin Smith; General Raasloff, Danish Minister of War; Theodore Woolsey, President of Yale College; F. A. P. Barnard, President of Columbia College; Hon. Amos Kendall; ex-Governor Curtin, of Pennsylvania, and many others. Telegraph instruments will be brought into the banquet room, and communications sent to and received from all parts of the world.

Evening European Quotations.

By Atlantic Cable.

LONDON, Dec. 24—3 P. M.—Consols, 92¼ for money, and 92⅜ for account. Five-twenties, 74½. Railways quiet; Erie, 26½.

FRANKFORT, Dec. 24.—Five-twenties weak at 78⅜.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 24—3 P. M.—Cotton quiet. Sales of 10,000 bales. Yarns and fabrics at Manchester steady. Linseed Oil, 30s.

LONDON, Dec. 24—3 P. M.—Tallow, 49s. Calcutta Linseed, 57s. @57s. 6d.

The specie in the Bank of England has increased £450,000.

ANTWERP, Dec. 24.—Petroleum, 53f. Holders ask ½ more.

Latest Markets by Telegraph.

NEW YORK Dec. 24.—Cotton quiet at 25 cents. Flour dull; sales of 6500 barrels at former figures. Wheat quiet; sales of 7,500 bushels Spring at $1 60. Corn steady; sales of 32,000 bushels at 97c.@$1 11. Oats quiet. Beef steady. Pork dull at $27 75. Lard dull at 17@17½c. Whisky dull.

BALTIMORE Dec. 24—Cotton steady; upland middlings, 23c. Flour dull, and only a small business transacted. Wheat dull and heavy. Corn dull; prime white at 85@93c; prime yellow at 83@84c. Oats dull at 66@70c. Rye firm at $1 60@1 65. Pork firm at $28. Bacon quiet; rib sides, 17c.; clear sides, 17½c.; shoulders, 14c.; hams, 18c. Lard quiet at 17½@@18c.

CITY ORDINANCES.

RESOLUTION

Of Instruction to the Committee on Girard Estates.

Resolved, By the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That the Committee on Girard Estates be and they are hereby authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to ascertain and determine the right and power of the City of Philadelphia, Trustee under the will of Stephen Girard, deceased, to make leases of property on the banks of the Schuylkill, now used or hereafter to be used for storing and shipping petroleum or other oils, for a longer period than five years.

JOSEPH F. MARCER,
President of Common Council.

Attest—
BENJAMIN H. HAINES,
Clerk of Select Council.
WILLIAM S. STOKLEY,
President of Select Council.

Approved this twenty-third day of December, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight (A. D. 1868).

MORTON McMICHAEL,
12 24 1t Mayor of Philadelphia.

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Directors of Girard College to admit Additional Pupils.

Resolved, By the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That the Directors of the Girard College be authorized to admit into the Institution twenty pupils, so as to make the whole number five hundred and twenty.

JOSEPH F. MARCER,
President of Common Council.

Attest—
ROBERT BETHELL,
Assistant Clerk of Select Council.
WILLIAM S. STOKLEY,
President of Select Council.

Approved this twenty-third day of December, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight (A. D. 1868).

MORTON McMICHAEL,
12 24 1t Mayor of Philadelphia.

FOURTH EDITION

ST. LOUIS.

The Tax on National Bank Stock—Collection Stayed.

FROM ST. LOUIS.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 24.

The Census

of St. Louis county gives a population of 241,071, an increase since 1864 of 53,251.

The National Banks

of this city yesterday petitioned the County Court to grant a stay of the collection of tax on national bank stock until the legality of the law can be decided by the United States Supreme Court. The petition was denied. The amount of tax due from the banks of this city is between $300,000 and $400,000, no tax having been collected for three years.

Fire in a Lunatic Asylum.

AMHERSTBURG, Ontario, Dec. 24.—A fire broke out last night in the south ward of the Lunatic Asylum here. One woman was suffocated, and two others badly burned. The building was saved with great difficulty.

Stock Quotations by Telegraph—2 P. M.

Glendinning, Davis & Co. report through their New York house the following:—

N. Y. Cent. R.	162	West. Union Tel.	33½
N. Y. and E. R.	33½	Cleve. & Toledo R.	99⅝
Ph. and Read. R.	49 1-16	Toledo & Wab.	57⅝
Mich. S. and N. I. R.	87½	Mil. & St. Paul R.	86½
Cle. and Pitt R.	89⅛	Adams Express	48½
Chi. and N. W. com.	79¾	Wells, Fargo & Co.	21½
Chi. and N. W. pref.	82	U. S. Express	48½
Chi. and R. I. R.	113½	Tenn. 6s, new	68⅝
Pitts. F. W. & Chi. R.	111½	Gold	134⅛
Pacific Mail Steam.	119	Market firm.	

The Hill Murder Case.

Continued from First Page.

At 2 o'clock the Court met, and the examination of witnesses was resumed.

J. M. Fletcher recalled—Among the keys that I took possession of at the house was a fire-proof key; I gave it to Chief Lamon.

Chief Lamon sworn—Mr. Fletcher gave me a fire-proof key; I gave it to Mr. Taggart to open a safe with.

Detective Taggart recalled—Received a safe key from Mr. Lamon.

Question. What did you do with it?

Mr. O'Byrne. I object, unless it is proposed to prove that it belonged to the prisoner's safe. Because there is no evidence that the safe was the property of the prisoner, or that any keys were found in his possession.

Judge Brewster—The fact that the safe was opened by a key found in this house is in our opinion sufficient to justify the admission of evidence of what was done with it, and what was found in the safe.

Witness—I went to a place at Cooper street wharf, Camden, where were machinery, logs, and shingles and opened a safe I found there with the key that I received from Chief Lamon.

Chief Lamon recalled—The prisoner told me that his place of business was at the Cooper street laundry, Camden.

Mr. Taggart recalled—The safe contained books and papers appertaining to the prisoner's business; accounts, bills, notes, and such things as a business man would have; there was nothing of a private nature; I found a large number of books, but nothing that was of importance to me; I found also a bill; I put these articles back into the safe, and locked, and returned the key to the owner; Sheriff Morgan, of Camden county, and John F. Starr, Jr., were present when I made this examination; I gave the key back to Chief Lamon.

Chief Lamon recalled—When I received the key from Taggart, I returned it to the Coroner's Deputy.

Mr. Hager!—I now call on the defense for the production of those books and papers, for Mr. Fletcher, the Coroner's Deputy, has said he gave all the keys to Mr. O'Byrne.

Counsel for the defense consented to return to the Commonwealth's officer that key, so that they might procure what they desired.

A box of keys were brought into court and was offered to the Commonwealth. Mr. Hagert refused to receive them, saying that he wanted the papers and not the keys.

Mr. Mann said he did not think they ought to be required to answer this call because the keys had not been traced to the prisoner's possession, and time had not been given for the production of these papers.

The Court said the latter ground was good, for a call should not be sprung at the bar, but the prisoner should be allowed time. He would therefore give counsel one hour to produce them, and if that time were found insufficient, for good cause it could be extended.

Mr. Mann declined to produce any of these articles, in order to allow secondary evidence to be given in regard to them, so that the trial of cause may not be delayed by any technical causes.

Mr. Taggart recalled—I found in the safe a bill to Joseph Vanleer for $190, a note to Derby & Weatherly for $435 50, due on the 23d of November, and the balance in the bank book contained a balance of $2 94.

Mr. Hagert here put in evidence the various articles of clothing, the deeds, due bills, and the other articles that have been produced in the case, and then said that he was willing to afford the defendant every reasonable opportunity to have his clothing examined, under such rules and regulations as the Court should make.

Here the case of the Commonwealth closed.

PHILADELPHIA STOCK EXCHANGE SALES, DEC. 24

Reported by De Haven & Bro., No. 40 S. Third street

BETWEEN BOARDS.

$1000 City 6s, New	106⅜	100 sh Read.	48⅛
$1000 Leh 6s, gold	87	do	48⅝
$2000 U S 6s, '81, cp	113⅝	do	48⅛
$1000 5-20s '62, cp	109⅜	do	48⅜
$500 do	109	do, 30 days	48⅜
$3100 Pa 6s, 1 series	105	do	48 91
$500 do	105	do	48⅜
14 sh Leh V R	58⅝	do	48⅜
5 sh Penna R	54	do	48 91
100 sh Hest'ville	5½	do	48 91
100 sh Leh N	29½	do	48⅜
100 sh Phil & E	29¾	do	48⅜
20 sh Steub & Ind.	10¾	do	48 91
10 sh Bk N A	249		

SECOND BOARD.

$4000 All Co 6s	70 yr cut bds	100 sh Read.	49
$4000 Leh 6s gold	87	do	49
6 sh Penna R	55⅝	do	49
100 sh Read R	48 91	do	49

COPARTNERSHIPS.

NOTICE.—THE FIRM OF DUY & HOLLINSHEAD is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business of the late firm will be settled by CHARLES A. DUY, at the old stand, No. 309 WALNUT Street.

CHARLES A. DUY,
FORMAN P. HOLLINSHEAD,
Philadelph'a, Dec. 24, 1868.

I beg to inform my friends that I have sold all my interest in the business of the late firm of DUY & HOLLINSHEAD to Mr. CHARLES A. DUY, who will continue the business at the old stand.

FORMAN P. HOLLINSHEAD.

I beg to inform my friends and the public that I have purchased Mr. F. P. Hollinshead's interest in the business of the late firm, and will continue the GENERAL INSURANCE AGENCY BUSINESS, at the old stand.

CHARLES A. DUY,
12 24 6t No. 309 WALNUT Street.

PIANOS.

STEINWAY & SONS' GRAND square and upright Pianos, at BLASIUS BROS.' No. 1006 CHESNUT Street. 8 1 tf

CHICKERING Grand, Square and Upright PIANOS.
DUTTON'S,
11 21f No 914 CHESNUT Street.

STECK & CO.'S & HAINES BROS'. PIANO FORTES,
AND MASON & HAMLIN'S CABINET AND METROPOLITAN ORGANS,
with the new and beautiful
VOX HUMANA.
Every inducement offered to purchasers.
J. E. GOULD,
12 1 to ths 3m No. 923 CHESNUT Street.

CHOICE SWEET CIDER—30 BARRELS JUST received. For sale by
THOMAS ALLMAN,
11* BROAD Street, above Race.

PURE BUCKWHEAT MEAL—IN BARRELS and bags. For sale by
THOMAS ALLMAN,
11* BROAD Street, above Race.

FIFTH EDITIO

THE LATEST NEW

A Denial from General Gra... Naval Orders—Advices from... Japan and China—European News.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatch to The Evening Telegraph.

WASHINGTON, Dec.

General Grant Denies

having used the language or sentiments attributed to him in the despatch sent from yesterday with reference to the Pacific Railroad published in the New York *Evening Post* the Philadelphia *Bulletin*.

The President's Amnesty Proclamat...

covering the cases of Jeff. Davis and J. Breckinridge, will be issued to-morrow.

Secretary McCulloch

leaves for Philadelphia to-day, where he spend Christmas with Jay Cooke.

The House Committee on

Appropriations

was in session to-day, considering the Di... matic and Consular and Legislative, Execut... and Judicial bills.

Senator Trumbull

is busily engaged in considering the case of Georgia Senators. He is hunting up authori... and precedents to lay before the Judici... Committee after the recess.

Despatch to the Associated Press.

American Shipping.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The Hamburg ... American packet ships never make Hamburg... the summer, but go to Glückstadt. The Com... state that at all seasons of the year, exc... when the river is frozen, ships of the larg... size may come to Altona.

Naval Orders.

Commander T. Abbott is ordered to the co... mand of the Nantic, vice Lieutenant-Co... mander Boyd, detached; Paymaster G. L. Da... is ordered to duty at Boston Navy Yard; Li... tenant-Commander H. F. Pickering is detach... from the Swatara and placed on waiting orde... Surgeon Samuel Jackson is detached from de... as Fleet Surgeon of the South Pacific Squadr... and placed on waiting orders; Paymaster ... George Harris is detached from Boston Na... Yard and placed on waiting orders; Lieutena... Commander M. S. Stuyvesant has resigne... Acting Ensigns A. F. Ulmer and John Low... are honorably discharged.

Festivities at the White House.

Invitations are out for a party to be given ... the children of the President's household ... Tuesday evening next, at 6 o'clock.

CALIFORNIA.

A Philadelphia Vessel Ashore.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—The barque Ann... W. Webster, from Philadelphia, went ashore ... Point Pedro, 13 miles south of Golden Ga... this morning. She floated off, and was tow... into the harbor by a steam-tug, and now li... in 18 feet of water off Vallego street wharf.

Arrived, ships Panther, from New York; Dub... of Edinburgh and Herman, for New Castle, D... A. Cleared, ship Fenby Castle, for Liverpoo... with 20,000 sacks of wheat.

Flour quiet at $4 75@7 75. Wheat—sales ... good shipping at $1 80. Legal tenders, 74.

Affairs in Japan.

Additional news has been received fro... Japan. The Mikado left Kioto November ... passed Yokohama on the 22d, and entere... Yeddo the next day.

The People of Yokohama

turned out *en masse* to witness the procession, ... being the first instance, according to Japanese ... authority, where the Mikado has paid a visit t... so distant a portion of his dominions, for twenty ... centuries. Yeddo, before nearly deserted, i... being repeopled and the palaces repaired, i... honor of his visit.

The report of the defeat and surrender of two ... princes at Aidsen is discredited at Yokohama ... by the sympathizers of the Northern faction ... and affairs are simply held in abeyance until ... more favorable season. Snow has fallen heavily ... in the northern provinces, and nothing is ex... pected to be done by the Southerners before ... spring, by which time it is anticipated that ... reconciliation will be effected. In the mean... while trade is languishing and matters becoming ... worse. At Osaca and Kobe the paper money ... issued by the Government is at 45 per cent. dis... count. Paper money was also to be issued a... Yokohama. Several Japanese have been pun... ished for refusing to receive the paper money.

The Northern princes have issued a manifesto ... defending their course, and stating their griev... ances.

Owing to the great increase of trade in tea, ... silk and silkworm eggs, several Japanese mer... chants have failed to fill their contracts with ... foreigners, and the Government therefore de... creed that the accounts of merchants be here... after examined by the proper officers, and only ... rich men licensed. Out of ten now allowed to ... deal in these articles, only three will be con... tinued.

FROM EUROPE

By Atlantic Cable.

Forced to Return.

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 24.—The steamship Marmora, which left Cardiff a few days ago for Bangor, Me., with a cargo of railroad iron, has been obliged to return to the mouth of the Shannon, having experienced a heavy gale, and being badly damaged. Several of the crew were injured by the violent shifting of the cargo.

Affairs in Greece.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The following has just been received:—

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 23.—M. Deliyannes, Grecian Minister, has formally retired from his post, and returned to Athens.

Edward Joy Morris, the American Minister, has consented to extend the protection of his legation to Greek subjects in Constantinople. The Sublime Porte declines to recognize the proposed conference of the great powers.

The Manchester Mills.

MANCHESTER, Dec. 24.—The cotton mills of this city are to be run only three days in the week for the present.

ANY PARTIES having men in their employ who may be contemplating insuring the lives of their employes, will do well to see the rates of "The American" of this city before concluding arrangements with any other company. The rapidly increasing business of "The American," added to its long established reputation for reliability, promptness, and security, make it one of the best companies to insure in. Insure *before the first of the year*, that you may share in the *January dividend*. Send for Mr. McLean or Mr. Taber, General Agents, or Mr. Harper, at the office, Fourth and Walnut, and they will post you as to *what* to do, and *how* to do it.